

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Earl loses mineral rights claim

Lord Lonsdale lost his nine-year action against the Crown in the High Court in London yesterday over oil and natural gas rights in the Irish Sea, off the Cumbria coast (Derek Barnett writes).

The earl, of Ashkham Hall, Penrith, Cumbria, had sought to show that oil and gas underneath those waters belonged to him because his great uncle bought the mineral rights in 1880.

He started the action after the Crown granted a search licence to the international oil company, Ultramar, and other companies. But in a four-hour judgment after the trial last November Mr Justice Slade ruled that the 1880 sale did not convey rights to oil or natural gas, principally because "minerals" was an indefinite term.

The judge ordered Lord Lonsdale to pay two thirds of the undiscovered costs of the Attorney General, the defendant in the case.

Disconnexions are stopped

Electricity disconnexions in England and Wales will be banned until at least January 25, Electricity Council announced last night (Pat Healy writes). The National Right to Fuel Campaign said the decision would save 2,500 homes from being cut off at risk of being cut off because they had not paid their bills should be given the benefit of the doubt.

Union leaders snub SDP

Trade union leaders, including Mr David Bassett, chairman of Trade Unions for a Labour Victory, yesterday rejected advances from Mr David Owen aimed at starting a "constructive dialogue" on policy with the Social Democratic Party (Paul Routledge writes).

They rebutted Dr Owen's argument that the TUC's close identification with the Labour Party damaged their ability to represent rank-and-file members, and reaffirmed the historic link with Labour. Mr Bassett described the SDP as "a profoundly anti-union party". There were basic differences between them that would not be solved by "a nice chat".

Bus took 27 to police station

Police Sergeant John West, aged 30, arrested 27 rampaging skinheads during an affray in London, put them on a bus and ordered the driver to go straight to the nearest police station.

The affray was in Bromley Road, Catford last August and involved 100 skinheads and coloured youths; 45 arrests were made, it was stated at Inner London Crown Court yesterday.

Three of six youths convicted of making an affray were sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment. Two were sent to borstal and one was given a suspended prison sentence. Ten others were acquitted.

Newspapers win contempt appeal

The Scotsman and the Glasgow Herald, which were held in contempt during a trial in Glasgow last July of 11 men accused of conspiring to help the Ulster Volunteer Force, won appeals against the decision at the High Court in Edinburgh yesterday.

Lord Ross, the judge at the trial, had said both papers were in contempt when they reported that a Crown witness and his wife were taken by police to a secret address after giving evidence.

BBC Scotland head

Mr James Hunter has been appointed Head of Television for BBC Scotland. Mr Hunter, aged 44, is now senior producer for television, music and arts features at BBC Scotland.

Leyland wins heart of Blue Circle with £2m order

Blue Circle, who deliver 7 million tonnes of cement each year have ordered 83 trucks from Leyland Vehicles.

Commenting on the deal, Blue Circle's Distribution Director Kenneth Rose said, "I believe the Leyland range is very well

Thaw brings cold comfort after the freeze

By Staff Reporters

The slight thaw which has provided a respite from last week's severe weather conditions is not expected to save many of today's sporting fixtures. The London Weather Centre said that the thaw would continue into next week; but cold weather might return to add to the difficulties of travellers affected by the rail dispute.

A spokesman said: "It is a sobering thought that we are only half way through January. At this rate they will be playing football until August."

Yesterday freezing fog affected much of the Home Counties; but the worst areas were still Wales, where Sir Richard Butler, president of the National Farmers' Union, called for all possible help for farmers.

He praised the resilience and courage of Welsh farmers who had made tremendous efforts to reach their stock and deliver milk. There was still a massive physical task of shifting huge amounts of snow, he said during his three-day tour of the worst hit areas of South Wales.

A dozen farmers at Lampeter, Dyfed, clubbed together to pay £160 an hour to hire a helicopter to drop fodder to starving sheep and vital generator fuel to isolated farms. On one farm sheep ate the paper sacks as well as the fodder.

Some country roads in South Wales will stay blocked until next week. Regular troops and Territorials have been using heavy digging equipment to clear streets in the valley towns.

The Welsh Office has set up an emergency operation using Army lorries to carry urgently needed salt from Cheshire into South Wales, where stocks have run low after a week of continuous road gritting. Powys County Council has organized a similar scheme for mid-Wales.

Mr Gwyn Thomas, president of the BBC Commission, has called for a report on snow damage in Wales.

Because local authority stocks of salt are heavily depleted, the ICI Meadow Banks mine, at Winstone, Cheshire, is increasing its output this weekend to about 36,000 tonnes a week to meet current demand. Recently the mine has been producing about 30,000 tonnes a week. It is capable of producing between 1,500,000 to 1,800,000 tonnes a year.

Salt at the mine head costs £9.50 a tonne. Delivery price varies from £12 and

£17 a tonne, depending on distance.

The freeze and the rail strike did not deter workers who rose to the challenge of getting to work with a "truly magnificent effort", according to the Confederation of British Industry.

Mr Bryan Rigby, the CBI deputy director, said: "The British are at their best when they are up against it." He said millions of people were owed public gratitude for getting to work this week.

However, weekend travellers will face difficulties because of the continuing dispute involving the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF). There will be no trains on Sunday and services will be run down from 10 pm tonight.

Some cancellations of Inter-City trains are expected today and on Monday commuters can expect similar conditions to those experienced yesterday, with many delays and cancellations. British Rail said much of that would be caused by the use of locomotives to haul essential freight.

On Western Region yesterday a heavy overnight frost caused trains in sidings at Cardiff, Swindon and Oxford to become frozen to the rails. Nearly a third of Western Region services from Paddington were cancelled and there was a reduced Inter-City service.

BR reported three-foot thick icicles in rail tunnels near Bristol and Inter-City trains between Sheffield and London and Nottingham and London were diverted while workmen chipped off large icicles in Alfreton tunnel.

On the roads black ice and freezing fog made driving perilous in many areas, according to the RAC. Many roads remained blocked by hard packed snow in the West Country, and the police advised a 20 mph speed limit on the Severn Bridge. Critics machine were out of action in Northampton, where the temperature dropped yesterday to minus 20°C.

Malvern police want to hear if anyone was seen driving a large quantity of food from the theft of £1,500 of sausages, bacon and pies from a van abandoned in snow near the village of Alfrick.

The Women's Royal Voluntary Service has been running an emergency mobile soup kitchen to help stranded lorry drivers on the M5 who have been suffering from exposure.

Information service, back page



Digging for victory: A car owner reclaiming his vehicle from the snows of Newport yesterday.

Letter from Wales

How 'Aladdin' beat the blizzards

By Sunday morning, when Llandwyt Major surrounded by more than two million tons of snow, the producers and cast of Aladdin knew they had a crisis on their hands. For one of the stars, who was to play the part of a camel, was to be flown to the hire of a helicopter to fly in the hind quarters of a ship of the desert.

The show was to open on Monday night and the village was searched from one frozen road to the other for a replacement. Driven by the maxim that the show must go on, another talent was eventually discovered and she spent the evening in the bitterly cold hall learning the dance routines.

Against all odds the show opened on schedule on Monday night, but as the hardy souls who braved the drifts settled in their seats another drama was being played out behind the curtain.

Mr Leslie Beckwith, who plays the dandy, had that day been shovelling snow and the day within in again with a sprained, cramped muscles. Freezing spray from an aerosol engulfed his tummy, pills were popped into his mouth and within a few minutes he was on his feet and the pianist struck up for the opening number.

That exclusive behind-the-scenes glimpse of how Aladdin beat the blizzards discloses just one of the many sagas that unfolded during the week from this village under siege.

Down in the White Lion Mr Geoffrey Burnett, captain of the darts league champions, had to tell his team that the top of the table clash with the Cambrian Club was off. Although the board was in perfect condition the opposition could not get through. To add to the deprivation the darts had not made its delivery and the landlord was half way through his last barrel of real ale.

Saint Hilary's Church, Young Wives' Club, who meet in the thirteenth-century town hall, also decided to concede victory to Jack Frost and cancelled their evening, which was to have included a talk on "Farming Today". The decision did not unduly upset Mrs Liz Davies, the farmer and housewife who, with deep in snow, was having quite enough of the agricultural life without speaking about it.

At the risk of upsetting theologians, it appeared that man might live on bread alone, for the search for it and the lack of it became an obsessive talking point. When eventually the bread van got through it was besieged.

Milk was also scarce and stronger souls walked with containers pulled on improvised sledges to Turlon Farm, turning the half-mile lane into a smooth and dangerous equivalent of the Cresta Run. With no cars moving to spoil the scene, some people took to their skis.

Society seemed to divide into those determined to enjoy the snow as a welcome break from work and the others,

workaholics, who developed withdrawal symptoms when their huge efforts to get behind the office desk failed.

One man rang up Cardiff on Monday suggesting that a special train be sent to the village, whose station has been closed for many years. British Rail, with a drivers' strike imminent, did not jump at the idea. Mothers deserved most sympathy for the schools which should have been closed and they had to cope with endless streams of cold and wet children retreating from half-completed snowmen.

As if to prove that they do not distinguish between council and private house dwellers, the Labour-controlled council demonstrated its egalitarianism by leaving the roads leading to both unclear. Tons of salt eventually cleared the main road through the village, which meant that children and old people had to make undignified leaps on to the treacherous pavements when an occasional car came through.

British weather is not constant and by way of a welcome change the village was yesterday engulfed in banks of freezing fog, which gave the snow a rather grey look. But down Alford, like the Windmill, did not close and the show, complete with the back end of the camel, continued to pack them in.

Tim Jones

Water men accept 9.1% offer

By Donald Macintyre Labour Correspondent

Leaders of 32,000 water and sewerage workers yesterday removed lingering fears of disruption in the industry by voting to accept a 9.1 per cent pay offer.

The National Water Council offer is one of the highest in the present public sector pay round and close to that offered to the miners.

Yesterday's decision, by 10 votes to 8, will come as a relief to ministers who had been anxious that resistance by leaders of the National Union of Public Employees might have led to a dispute.

Nupe's national water committee last month rejected the unanimous recommendation by negotiators to accept the offer, and a ballot of 10,000 members secured a 5-2 vote against.

The new agreement, backdated to December 6, will raise the basic rate for the highest grade of water worker from £78.70 to £85.85 a week. Average earnings in the industry are about £120 a week.

Machete murder trio given 'life'

Three men were jailed for life yesterday at the Central Criminal Court for a murder in which they began to cut up the victim's body while he was still alive.

One of them, John Bowden, was led struggling and shouting from the dock after Mr Justice May-Jones recommended that he should serve at least 25 years. He shouted: "You old bastard. I hope you die screaming of cancer."

Bowden, aged 24, a labourer, Michael Ward, aged 28, a grave digger, and David Begley, aged 41, a porter, were found guilty of murdering Mr Donald Ryan, aged 49. The judge recommended that Ward and Begley should serve at least 15 years.

Mr Michael Mansfield, for Bowden, offered no mitigation. The judge told Mr Rock Tansey, counsel for Begley: "This is an appalling case. There never was a more horrific case of murder than this one and your client was fully implicated in it."

"I am prepared to believe that he was not the prime mover. The person who was behind it all was the codefendant, Bowden, who obviously enjoyed inflicting pain and even killing."

Mr Tansey said Begley had no previous convictions for

violence; but his life had deteriorated because of alcoholism.

Sentencing Begley, the judge said: "I think this was a horrendous murder and anyone who is capable of taking part in an offence of this kind is a potential menace to the public at large."

He said he was satisfied that Ward had treated the matter as a "great joke" after he had been a party to dismembering Mr Ryan while he was still alive and disposing of parts of his body round the neighbourhood.

The judge told the jury that if they wished he would recommend that they be excluded jury service for 20 years. "You have had a very difficult and gruesome task to perform," he said.

Mr Ryan's body had been cut up with a saw, electric carving knife and a machete and the pieces were left in Colby, Park, Camberwell, South London, where Ward lived with Shirley Brindle.

On Thursday she was found not guilty of murder. But she was convicted of conspiring to prevent Mr Ryan's burial and will be sentenced on Monday.

Parts of Mr Ryan's body were found in streets and on

wasteground. His head, which had been stored in a fridge, was later found in a refuse bag.

The judge directed that outstanding charges against Bowden alleging kidnapping, robbery and wounding be left on the file. Bowden, of Telford Place, Peckham, south London, was given a total of five years' jail for maliciously wounding Mr Robert Egan and Mr Patrick O'Connor in separate incidents, and for conspiring to rob Mr Ryan and conspiring to prevent his burial.

Begley, of Wincombe Court, Walworth, south London, was jailed for a total of five years for the assault on Mr Ryan, conspiracy to rob Mr Ryan and conspiracy to prevent his burial.

During the trial a man who approached a juror and spoke to prosecution witnesses was jailed for 12 months for contempt of court. David Mulvaney, aged 25, of Brandon Estate, Walworth, was arrested as a witness reported the incident in November. An order was made that no publicity should be given to the matter until after the trial.

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Gandhi gives up defence post in reshuffle

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi, Jan 15

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, today reshuffled her Cabinet in the latest of a series of actions intended to strengthen her Government and party.

Earlier this week she ousted her Indira Congress Party about the growth of factional quarrelling and told members to behave. She also told her ministers she wanted better performance.

Last night, as she began the third year of her present Premiership, she broadcast to India's 700 million people and presented a 20-point programme. This is a redefined but similar version of the programme she introduced during the emergency in 1975. Essentially, it calls for overall economic and social improvement.

Mrs Gandhi's Government has been criticised from time to time for being directionless, and her cabinet has been described as the weakest since independence.

The bulk of her ministerial changes are in the second tier, with ministers exchanging jobs. There is only one new face, that of Mr Jagannath Kaushal, who becomes an Law Minister.

The most interesting change concerns the appointment of Mr R. Venkataraman, former Finance Minister, to Defence, a portfolio until now held by Mrs Gandhi.

He is one of the "brains" of the Cabinet and, no doubt, Mrs Gandhi feels she needs his skills as India looks for ways of improving its defence.

The fact that Mr Pranab Mukherjee, whose experience as an economic administrator is limited, has been drafted to take Mr Venkataraman's place is evident that Mrs Gandhi intends to bring economic management closer to herself and a few advisers.

Mrs Gandhi hopes that her organization will be stronger

in the face of opposition criticism.

The reshuffled Cabinet is as follows:

Prime Minister: Mrs Indira Gandhi; Defence: Ramaswami Venkataraman; Finance: Pranab Mukherjee; External Affairs: P. V. Narasimha Rao; Home Affairs: Zail Singh; Communications: C. M. Stephen.

Energy: A. B. A. Ghani Khan Chaudhury; Planning: S. B. Chavan; Irrigation: Kedar Pandey; Shipping and Transport: Veerendra Patil.

Information and Broadcasting: Vasant Sathar; Railways: Prakash Chandra Sethi; Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilisers: P. Shiv Shankar; Health and Family Welfare: B. Shankaranand; Parliamentary Affairs and Works and Housing: Bhishma Narain Singh; Agriculture and Rural Reconstruction: Rao Birendra Singh; Industry, Steel and Mines: Narain Dutt Tiwari; Law, Justice and Company Affairs: Jagannath Kaushal.

Briton's killer is jailed for life

From David Brown, Baltimore, Jan 15

An 18-year-old man was convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday for shooting dead an English antiques dealer here last summer.

Michael J. Brown protested his innocence to the end, even as he stood weeping after the all-black jury of nine women and three men had delivered their verdict. The jurors took two and a half hours to reach their decision about the black defendant, who is an unemployed high school dropout.

Mr Brown, together with two other teenagers who will be tried separately, was charged with killing Phillip Rouse, aged 34, from Somerset, as he, his girlfriend, Anne Bullivant, and their host, Nigel Lawrence, were walking home from a disco here in the early hours of August 22. Mr Rouse was chasing a cyclist who had snatched his girlfriend's handbag when he was attacked and shot once in the chest. He died instantly.

On the third and last day of his trial the defendant testified, in slow and stuttering speech, that he had been with the people who had killed Mr Rouse, but nothing more. He also said that he was under the influence of whisky and marijuana when he gave a statement to police late on the night of his arrest.

In that statement, he confessed to being one of the robbers, but denied shooting Mr Rouse. Under Maryland law, however, any participant in a felony that results in death is held to be guilty of murder.

The prosecutor said that Mr Brown's statements were so contradictory that if the jurors believed them he wanted to see them after the trial, so that "I can tell you some stock in the Brooklyn bridge."

When the proceedings were over, Mr Lawrence, with whom the victims had been staying on a two-week holiday in Baltimore said he felt justice had been done. "But it doesn't make me feel any better. I don't know what I feel, just pretty empty."

Mr Lawrence, who is also English, was a boyhood friend of Mr Rouse, and has been an antiques dealer in Baltimore for the last two and a half years.

Mr Stephen Miles, Brown's lawyer, said that an appeal would be lodged against the conviction, AP reports.



Picasso's mistress Jacqueline Rocque on one of a set of 19 silver plates designed by the artist and now on sale in New York for £250,000.

Mailer friend tells court his life story

From Michael Hamlyn, New York, Jan 15

Norman Mailer, the author was in court yesterday and listening intently as his protégé Jack Abbott, aged 37, gave evidence in his own defence on a murder charge.

Mr Abbott's testimony consisted of a description of his life since childhood in a succession of foster homes, children's homes, reform schools and prisons.

His description paralleled the material he included in the book *In the Belly of the Beast* which consisted of a series of autobiographical and philosophical letters to Mr Mailer. Mr Mailer was instrumental in getting the letters from the convicted murderer published, wrote a foreword to the book and sponsored his parole.

The convicted author testified that he had been beaten, injected with drugs and starved during 24 years spent in various penal institutions.

He said that he had spent "two-and-a-half, maybe three years" in solitary confinement between the ages of 12 and 18, and another five-and-a-half years in solitary confinement after being transferred to adult prison.

The testimony he gave, sometimes in a quiet, undramatic way, and sometimes apparently on the point of tears, was part of a defence effort to show that a man raised in prison was unable to understand the complexities of life outside. "He is going to spread his whole life out to the jury," said his defence counsel Mr Ivan Fisher.

Mr Abbott is accused of the murder of a waiter at a New York City restaurant who refused to let him use a staff lavatory. He had been out of jail on a work release programme, working as a researcher for Mr Mailer for only six weeks.

Ten witnesses so far have testified for the prosecution that Mr Abbott became angered by the refusal and that he stabbed the 21-year-old waiter, a promising actor and playwright.

Mr Mailer talked for more than an hour with the accused man before the hearing. He declined comment, except to say "as I said at the beginning, it's a tragedy all round and I don't see any reason to change that remark."

In his testimony, Mr Abbott said that he knew little of his parents and ever since he could remember he had been brought up by the state.

From 12 to 18, he was in a training school for delinquents in Utah (according to his book he was sent there for "failure to adjust to foster homes"). He was freed at 18 and spent six months in prison for cashing stolen cheques. He received a further jail sentence after he had stabbed a fellow-inmate to death.

Letter from Chicago Second Daley waits in the wings

Carl Sandburg called it the "city of the big shoulders," hog butcher to the world." To Frank Sinatra, it is "my kind of town." But whatever Chicago's charms (and they are many), politically it is best known not just for unwavering loyalty to the Democratic Party but for the kind of old-fashioned machine politics that made it for over 21 years the personal fiefdom of the late Mayor Richard Daley. Some of that may be about to change.

America's second city today is vibrant, thriving, dynamic, priding itself on being taller, newer, cleaner and safer than New York. Much of that is attributable to Daley, with his policy of "a cop on every corner" and his determination to attract more and more business to the Loop — the city centre so-called — because it is bounded by a rickety loop-line railway.

Anything New York could do, Daley did better. While the Big Apple teetered on the precipice of bankruptcy and Los Angeles smothered in self-generated smog, Chicago thrived. One observer explained it simply by saying: "I have seen the past and it works."

On a visit to New York, Mr Daley took one look at the litter in Times Square, the graffiti on the subway trains and asked his aides in a voice cold with contempt: "Who's in charge here? I get the feelin' nobody's in charge."

There was never any doubt about who was in charge of Chicago. Visitors entering the city from O'Hare Airport or across the Skyway Bridge soon got the message. Billboards that no eye could miss proclaimed it: "Welcome to Chicago, Richard J. Daley, Mayor." And then, Monday, December 20, 1976, Richard Daley, the man who had made Presidents, collapsed and died in his doctor's surgery.

At first, nothing seemed to change. Michael Bilandic took over, a patient man, anointed by the machine and at last coming into his own. He was popular, too. Flanked by Daley's four sons, he became the first Croat-American to lead Chicago's St Patrick's Day parade down State Street. His nomination for a full term of office seemed secure until a sudden snowfall defeated him.

Chicago is just now suffering the lowest temperatures it has known since records began in 1870. It is not called the Windy City for nothing. The breezes off Lake Michigan that cool downtown streets so pleasantly in the summer acquire a hostile edge from mid-November on. One cold day in 1977, close to primary election time, they dumped several inches of snow in the Loop and it took close on a week to unseal the traffic. Chicagoans were outraged.

Hiszenor or Himself (as Daley was variously known to the man in the street) would never have allowed it. They were right, too. Part of the Daley mystique was an ability to cope with the weather, so that snow-loungs and dump trucks were lined up waiting to clear the snow almost as quickly as it fell. Mr Bilandic paid the price.

Chicago differs from other American cities in that voters go to the polls in April rather than November but, since Republicans have no chance in the race for mayor, the real decider is the Cook County Democratic primary several weeks earlier.

Mrs Jane Byrne, a Daley critic, entered the lists and won. Was it a defeat for the machine at last? Or just a case of Mrs Byrne borrowing the machine from the Daleys? The answer will not be known until the next primary early in 1983.

Mrs Byrne awaits the verdict calmly. Cool, well-groomed and self-assured, she is described by the newspapers as feisty (meaning tough, combative and by no means lacking in true grit).

A year from now, she may need all those virtues. For the word is gradually coming out that her opponent will be none other than Richard M. Daley, son of her old enemy, who recently won the key post of state's attorney.

The battle for the souls of Chicago Democrats will find loyalties divided. Some praise Mrs Byrne as a mayor in the modern mould. They tell you the day of the machine has ended all over America. Why should Chicago be different?

Others mutter darkly that the city is not what it was in the Daley days. There are whispers that it could even find itself in financial difficulties.

Chicagoans have 12 months to make up their minds.

Cyril MacDermott

Cooking oil scandal

Spain counts cost of tragedy

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, Jan 15

Spaniards, shocked by the human cost of the toxic cooking oil scandal — 243 people dead and at least 16,000 ill, most of them apparently permanently — are in for another jolt when they realize how much the fraud is costing the taxpayers.

Unofficial estimates put that bill near the £40m mark nine months after the wave of poisonings began, and the figure is expected to rise by several million pounds per month for a long time.

The direct costs can be divided roughly into four categories: medical attention, financial assistance to those affected, research, and the value of the good oil which authorities exchanged for bad oil in order to contain the danger.

The cost of hospital ward and outpatient care for those suffering from the so-called toxic oil syndrome during the first five months of the outbreak was a surprisingly low £197 per patient each month, according to the best figures available — issued by the Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs.

That included x-rays, laboratory analyses, some social aid and the cost of hiring extra help and paying some overtime, but not the time spent by salaried medical staff.

With 15,178 people treated during that period, the total came to just under £15m or a monthly average of £3m. The number of such patients occupying hospital beds has levelled off to about 500 after peaking at about 2,000 last autumn.

But social aid and outpatient treatment have increased considerably. So it is probably fair to project the previous monthly treatment cost as a rough estimate for the present and the near future and that would put treatment costs at about £30m by the end of this month, with little hope of any appreciable drop in the monthly outlay for the moment.

Financial assistance for families of the deceased, for the incapacitated and for those who were widowed, orphaned, or left without the family's main wage-earner is dispensed under a special programme. The eventual cost of this has not been estimated by the authorities.

The Government began distributing such funds last autumn and is continuing to do so with an unofficial estimate putting the cost by the end of the month at about £1.58m, based on various factors, including a probable death toll by that time of about 250. Since this type of aid includes certain categories of pensions and monthly grants which, presumably, must be paid for years, the bill will continue to rise.

Research costs are hard to pin down though the public health authorities are said to have allotted an extra £2.75m for urgent work connected with the toxic oil syndrome. Informed sources say that not all of this money has been used — but it certainly will be and more will be needed from time to time until the precise nature of the poison has been described and an effective treatment developed.

In order to get the dangerous industrial-class rapeseed oil out of circulation, once it was identified as the source of the poison, the Government set up exchange points in a number of cities where good oil was offered for bad. All anyone had to do was hand in suspect oil, usually bought in unlabeled five-litre jugs, and within a few days they were entitled to collect an equal quantity of genuine olive oil, most of which came from surplus agricultural stocks.

About 2.5 million litres of olive oil were given away in this manner. With an estimated value of at least 100 pesetas per litre, the free oil cost at least 250m pesetas — £1.37m.

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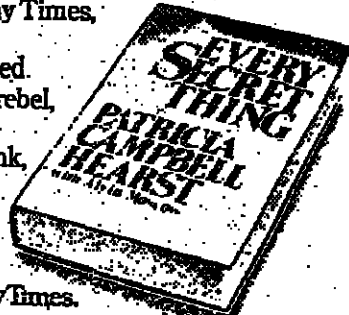
turnarounds in modern history. How could it possibly have happened?

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THE SUNDAY TIMES
Patty Hearst's own story continues this Sunday in the Sunday Times.

Haig returns to Middle East peace wrangle

From Christopher Walker, Tel Aviv, Jan 15

After months of hesitation, the American Government has returned to the thick of the Middle East peace process in what is seen as a last-ditch attempt to reach an agreement on the central issue of Palestinian autonomy, before the final Israeli withdrawal from Sinai in April.

Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, announced today before flying back to Washington that he would be returning to the Middle East in two weeks to begin a new round of discussions in Cairo and Jerusalem. If these show any sign of progress, a tripartite ministerial meeting will be convened.

In political circles, Mr Haig's visit to Israel is considered to have successfully defused the recent crisis in Israeli-American relations resulting from the annexation of the Golan Heights. It is also understood to have secured Israeli agreement to accept the participation of Britain, France, the West Germany and the Netherlands in the Sinai peace force.

At Tel Aviv airport, Mr Haig explained that greater American attention to auton-

omy was scheduled last October but was deferred by the assassination of President Sadat. "We do not intend to put off this process any longer," he said. "We are now adding a greater sense of urgency to make the difference," he said. "It may not. But we do not feel we have the luxury of not trying."

Before Mr Haig's return, the results of his four-day mission to Egypt and Israel will be assessed in Washington and new ideas formulated in an effort to bridge the formidable gap between the two countries over Palestinian self-rule. Only after his next visit will Mr Haig decide whether he, a new special envoy, or the American ambassadors in Cairo and Tel Aviv will handle the intensified autonomy talks.

The reason for the sudden change in America's attitude was summed up by Mr Abbas Eban, the opposition foreign affairs spokesman, who said after meeting Mr Haig: "They, like we, have a serious appraisal of what the situation would be if we were to reach April without any progress at all. They think there would be disarray and we think there would be disarray."

Polish militia detain visiting US senator

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Jan 15

The United States will not lift its block on a \$700m (about £350) credit for Poland unless the military council meets a number of conditions, including allowing a meeting between Mr Lech Walesa, the detained Solidarity chairman, and the United States Ambassador. That view was expressed today by Senator Larry Pressler (Republican, South Dakota) on his first day of a Foreign Relations Committee visit to Warsaw since the imposition of martial law.

Senator Pressler, who also carried two letters from the Pope to Archbishop Glemp, has been having talks with Polish leaders, including Mr Jerzy Olszowski, a Deputy Premier. Mr Olszowski made clear that the blocking of United States food credits would impose substantial hardship on Poland, including the slaughtering of livestock herds that would set back the meat supply situation by some two to three years.

The Senator's trip was marred by an embarrassing incident during which he was briefly detained by militia after taking photographs in a supermarket. Militia cars blocked the Senator's vehicle and he was hustled out of the food shop which, apart from people, was largely empty. "I rather fear for those who fall into the hands of people like this," he told Western reporters later. "It gave me a sense of how repressive this society could be."

It is clear that the United States is concentrating on achieving certain limited aims in its diplomacy towards Poland. One of these is the freeing of Mr Walesa. Other goals involve the general easing of martial law restrictions. Mr Pressler was told that the military leadership would like Mr Walesa to start negotiations on a revised union but that he could only consult his president, most of whom are in internment

camp, after and not before agreeing to these talks.

This appears to have been the main stumbling block in talks on the same subject between the Church and state this week. The church has been arguing that the Solidarity leadership be released so that it can, with Mr Walesa, negotiate some form of agreement with the government. The government however continues to feel that it has a better chance of securing what it wants — a neutered non-political union — if Mr Walesa is kept isolated.

The Church and the military council, after an initial spurt of goodwill, have found their talks heading for deadlock. Mr Glemp agreed to meet General Wojciech Jaruzelski, head of the military council, last Saturday and many Church sources saw this as a sign that the council would make substantial concessions on internment.

Internment, recently freed, are reporting a slight improvement in conditions in some camps but no major headway has been made. The government is still insisting that martial law will probably last for some time (despite earlier news that martial law would end in February) and that internment will only disappear when military rule is finally lifted.

Increasingly, in the past few days, it has become clear that the Polish church must again rely on the Vatican to put pressure on the government. The Pope's recent criticism of internment had considerable effect on the government. A letter was sent to the Pope from the Primate and the two letters given to Mr Pressler in Rome earlier this week for delivery to Mr Glemp give the reply. Mr Pressler meets Mr Glemp tomorrow.

No details are known of the letters, although they almost certainly urge Mr Glemp to stand firm on issues such as internment camps, after and not before agreeing to these talks.

Bankers confident of overcoming debt crisis

From Peter Norman, Brussels, Jan 15

One of West Germany's leading commercial bankers has forecast that the world's financial markets should be able to come through the Polish debt crisis without any fundamental disruption, just as they overcame the results of the revolution in Iran and the near bankruptcy of Turkey.

Addressing an audience of 600 businessmen in Düsseldorf, Herr Wilfried Guth, one of the two chief executives of the Deutsche Bank AG, said that Poland's massive \$26,000m (£13,000m) debt to the West did not constitute a threat to any individual bank or to the world banking system.

Even though the military takeover in Warsaw had pushed into "the imponderable future" a possible reform of Poland's economy and balance of payments, the worst that Herr Guth was prepared to forecast was that banks would in future be more reluctant to end money to financially weak countries.

As Herr Guth was stating his optimistic case, treasury officials from Poland's 16 main Western creditor countries were meeting in Paris to review the Polish debt. The meeting originally had been called before the military takeover to discuss Poland's request for rescheduling \$2,500m to \$3,000m of debt due to repay to Western governments during 1982.

But the officials refused to consider further rescheduling because the foreign ministers of Nato have agreed that the negotiations on debts falling due this year should for the time being be held in suspense.

Even before the Nato ministers signed their declaration the meeting in Paris had been downgraded to a low key affair, without the Poles in attendance, because Warsaw so far had failed to meet the conditions for rescheduling \$2,400m of debt that was due to be paid to commercial banks in 1981.

Herr Guth, who is one of the few Western bankers to have commented publicly about the Polish debt since martial law was imposed, appeared surprisingly unruffled by the impasse in the Polish debt negotiations. He admitted that the banks would like the Poles to pay the \$300m of interest needed to complete the 1981 rescheduling, but he said that realistic observer could interpret the planned agreement as more than a deferment of the debt problem.

As a result, Western banks should make provisions in their accounts for risks associated with their lending to Poland. The Deutsche Bank, which is thought to have lent the Poles DM450m without state guarantee, has already said that it will set aside adequate funds for this purpose.

EEC looks at revised budget deal for Britain

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Jan 15

EEC foreign ministers made a determined effort today to decide how much Britain should pay into the Community budget. All seemed agreed that this was the only way to settle the problems which have beset the EEC for the past two years.

The informal meeting in Brussels was originally meant to study four basic questions. But after a long session yesterday, much of it spent arguing details of three agricultural problems, the Belgian President of the Council decided the only way forward was to restrict debate to the British budget contribution.

With the help of Commission specialists, his staff worked out yet another compromise proposal in the course of today's lunchtime adjournment. This compromise was as widely based as possible.

It used suggestions originally put before the meeting by Mr Gaston Thorn, the Commission's President. These had been adapted by West German specialists and then British footnotes had been added to this adaptation. The final draft began with this version, also taking into account points which had been raised by Claude Cheysson, the French Minister.

From a British point of view the compromise had the advantage of offering a five-year subsidy package, which is the longest period suggested during the six months intensive negotiations. At the same time there was no suggestion of a review at the end of five years, contrary to the British view that a permanent solution rather than a restricted one was essential.

There were many criticisms from all round the table about the suggested mechanism for funding the rebate which might be due to Britain and for working out how the British contribution itself should be calculated. The long debate on the budget issue meant it was impossible to reach any detailed agreements on the three agricultural questions. It is likely that the details on them could be left to agriculture ministers.

The existing suggestion for dealing with the problem of milk production, which is the subject of greatest interest to Britain, would not alter existing levies although it would provide 20 per cent of receipts from levies to help small farmers.



Our hero: Linda Skutnik and sons Glen and Mitchell, at home in Lorton, Virginia, yesterday when her husband Lenny who risked his life diving into the Potomac to rescue Kelly Duncan, an Air Florida stewardess.

Washington air disaster clues emerge

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Jan 15

Navy and Coast Guard divers, braving sub-zero temperatures, today located the black box and voice recorder near the tail of the Air Florida Boeing 737 which crashed into the Potomac river in central Washington on Wednesday.

Mr Jim Burnett, acting chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, which is heading an investigation into the crash, told *The Times* the two instruments appeared undamaged and he expected them to be retrieved later today.

It is hoped the black box will provide vital clues to whether excessive ice was responsible for the crash. The aircraft took off from Washington's National Airport in a snowstorm which had kept the airport closed for much of the day.

The aircraft had to wait for between 20 and 50 minutes on the runway after its last de-icing before takeoff and the pilot of another aircraft reported seeing an ice build-up on the jet as it was taxiing to the runway.

The aircraft was scheduled to takeoff at 2.15 pm, but did not pull away from the terminal to taxi to the runway until about 3.40 pm. It was cleared for takeoff at about 4 pm. However, according to one report, there was an additional delay between the time the aircraft was given its final de-icing when it began to taxi from the terminal.

Mr Francis McAdams, the safety board member in charge of the investigation, conceded that ice was a possible cause of the crash but emphasized that investigators would only have a clearer idea of what happened after they had been able to examine the contents of the flight data recorder.

"Ice would add to the weight of the plane and could affect its takeoff performance," Mr McAdams said, adding that investigators had already impounded samples of the de-icing fluid used as well as the lorry which sprayed the aircraft. Investigators would also look at other possibilities such as fuel impurities and pilot error.

A spokesman for the airline said the de-icing fluid normally gave protection for up to one hour. However, the airline pilots' association pointed out today that it had already issued a warning to pilots that certain types of fluid were inadequate.

Salvage work continued today as the death toll from the disaster rose to 78 after two motorists who were on the bridge at the time of the crash died in hospital. The toll includes 74 of the 79 people on board the aircraft and four people on the bridge. The final figure could be higher because other people could have been swept from the bridge and their bodies hidden under the ice.

More than two dozen divers, operating from a floating platform, were working around the submerged wreckage today. They were hampered by bad visibility, scattered debris and freezing temperatures which meant they could only stay in the water for 30 minutes.

Their initial tasks were to establish the exact position and condition of the wreckage and to retrieve the black box. According to Police Inspector James Shugart, spokesman for the recovery effort, the tentative investigation by the divers revealed that the fuselage of the aircraft was not intact.

If that was confirmed they would start trying to remove the bodies from the aircraft before pulling the wreckage from the water. Another official said the aircraft appeared to have broken into three large parts.

Ice deadly peril in aviation

By Michael Bailly, Transport Correspondent

Ice, a possible cause of the Washington air disaster, has been dreaded by aviators ever since man took to the air.

The greatest danger is ice forming on the leading edge of a wing, altering its aerodynamic shape and diminishing its power to lift. It can also form on the engine nacelles, distorting the air

intake and reducing power. Another problem is slush clinging to an aircraft on a runway and impeding take-off.

Pilot error arising from slush makes a fourth risk: sometimes he will taxi with flaps up to avoid ice and slush forming on them, then forget to lower half-flap to increase lift for take-off.

Ice forms when water suspended in the atmosphere in below-freezing temperatures touches a solid object. On the ground it is cleared by spraying anti-ice, a 60/40 mixture of anti-freeze and hot water which not only clears ice but prevents it reforming for several minutes.

In the air it is used to clear the leading edge of the wing; but now very hot air is fed in ducts from the engines along the leading edges and to other critical parts.

It is the pilot's responsibility to ensure that an aircraft is deiced before takeoff. A German inquiry found a British pilot had not done this in the Munich air disaster in 1958, when a BEA Elizabethan carrying Manchester United footballers crashed on take-off, killing 21.

This was denied by the pilot, the late Captain Thane, who fought the decision and was eventually vindicated by the British finding that slush on the runway had contributed.



Men at the top: Lieutenant General Alvaro Lacalle, Lieutenant General Ramon de Ascanio, Vice-Admiral Saturnino Suarez and General Emilio Garcia Conde.

Spain names new defence chiefs

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, Jan 15

Three new service chiefs for Spain's armed forces and a new chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff were named by the Cabinet today.

Lieutenant-General Alvaro Lacalle, aged 63, the former Captain-General of the Valladolid military region, is the new Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The new Army Chief is a surprise: Lieutenant-General Ramon de Ascanio, aged 61, and until now in the key post of Director of Army Personnel. The new Navy chief is Vice-Admiral Saturnino Suarez, aged 60, and the Air Chief is General Emilio Garcia Conde, aged 63.

The Government of Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo announced last night it had decided to retire from active service the existing chiefs, who are aged 65 and 65, in anticipation of their reaching the new regulation limit over the next few months.

This is the Government's prerogative under the 1978 democratic constitution but the decision to carry out the changes has been under speculation during the past month, but the changes were expected in stages, beginning with General Jose Gabeiras, the Army chief who would have to go in April under the new rules. In all, nine senior Army generals are due to retire between April and September.

General Gabeiras will be giving evidence at the trial of people involved in last February's attempted coup and if he had stayed on this could have led to complications. But even El Alcazar the daily of the ex-combatants on Franco's side in the civil war, which has good connections in right-wing Army circles, was surprised by the timing of the move.

With divisions in the Army

denounced only this week by the Madrid regional commander, there is a tense atmosphere after the changes. In the background still is the right wing "Manifesto of the 100" which expressed solidarity with those accused in the coup trial and told civilian politicians to respect the "necessary autonomy" of the armed forces.

The most controversial appointment from a democratic standpoint is that of the new Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. The decision is technically the Prime Minister's but it seems to have followed General Lacalle's strong position in the Spanish Army's rigid hierarchy. All other appointments are on the Defence Minister's recommendation following consultations by senior officers in each service.

General Lacalle is said now to enjoy good relations with the King although he joined as a volunteer on Franco's side in the civil war and fought in the "Blue Division" on Hitler's side in Russia in the Second World War.

There was some criticism last August when he was named Captain-General in Valladolid, in view of his reported past sympathies with Fuerza Nueva, the neo-Falangist movement, which has chosen the Castilian town as one of its propaganda centres.

General de Ascanio, an artillery officer from the Canary Islands, is known as a highly professional soldier. The new Air Force chief is a former tutor of King Juan Carlos and served closely General Gutierrez Mellado when he was Deputy Prime Minister in charge of defence matters in the Suarez Government.

Police deny Kitson murder link

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg, Jan 15

An armed police guard was posted today outside the flat where Mrs Joan Weinberg was found dead with head injuries on Wednesday. She was the aunt of Mr Steven Kitson, the Briton who was detained by South African security police last week.

A post-mortem has failed to show the cause of death, but Colonel Maria van der Linde, head of the Johannesburg murder and robbery squad, said: "We are still investigating a murder case." Earlier, General Mike Geldenhuys, the Police Commissioner, commented on local newspaper reports that have indicated that Mrs Weinberg's death may have

been linked to her nephew's arrest and his expulsion from South Africa on Tuesday. He said the police had been unaware of a family connection between Mrs Weinberg and Mr Kitson until newspapers telephoned the police spokesman and inquired about it.

"If certain newspapers want to create the impression that the police have murdered Mrs Weinberg or that she could have been politically knocked off, they will be making the mistake of their existence."

Mrs Weinberg, who was 53, ran a lonely hearts club from her flat and is known to have extended hospitality to destitute

Mr Kitson was expelled from South Africa on Tuesday after being held for six days. General Geldenhuys said he was arrested for sketching details of the Pretoria prison where his father, Mr David Kitson, aged 63, is in the seventeenth year of a 20-year sentence for sabotage.

General Geldenhuys said Mr Steven Kitson had been instructed by agents in Britain to obtain information which could be used to help in the escape of convicted terrorists.

The police have removed tapes and newspaper cuttings from Mrs Weinberg's flat.

CUSTOMS DUTY ON A GOOD TURN

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg, Jan 15

It was a pleasant surprise for Mr Garth Johnson when he found two bottles of scotch on a deserted South African beach. There were also two cartons of cigarettes and \$50 (£25) in a waterproof package that had been dropped overboard from a passing freighter. A covering note, signed by the ship's captain, asked the finder of the package to post 30 letters inside it, which had been written by members of his crew, and keep the rest.

But two customs officials also turned up, demanding 14.32 rand (\$5.28) import duty and sales tax.

Ghana told to restore civil rule

From Godfrey Morrison, Accra, Jan 15

The association of lawyers, doctors and other professional men in Ghana today called on the military government to restore constitutional rule next year.

In a statement the association said the Provisional National Defence Council, which seized power in a coup here on New Year's Eve, should serve out the rest of deposed President Hilla Limann's term which expires next year, and then restore constitutional rule.

The association expressed support for the council's expressed intent to root out corruption and criticized the Limann Government for encouraging corruption and failing to deal with Ghana's economic problems.

Just how long the new government intends to rule is not clear. Brigadier Joseph Nunoo-Mensah, a council member, said yesterday that the new government would be in power "for a bit of time".

The statement urged the new government to re-enact provisions of the civilian constitution guaranteeing individual rights, and called for freedom of the press.

In Kumasi, the nation's second city, troops yesterday overturned and set on fire market stalls. An army officer as saying this had been done because traders had refused to heed the new regime's appeals for a reduction in prices.

In Accra, Mr Chris Bukari Adu, another council member, issued what he described as the last appeal to traders: "Our patience is running out", he told a rally.

Yesterday, there were clear indications that some traders were withdrawing goods from sale rather than respond to the new regime's appeal for price reductions.

Though the battle of wills between the traders and the Government represents a serious problem for Mr Jerry Rawlings, the council leader, the announcement of the release from protective custody of 38 MPs, including four former ministers from the government of President Limann, could indicate growing confidence within the new government.

Moscow, Tass accused the United States today of trying to organize an economic boycott of Ghana in order to bring down the new military government. (Reuter reports).

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Argentine women in protest

Buenos Aires.—Relatives of missing people in Argentina have written to President Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri requesting a meeting.

The "Plaza de Mayo Mothers" held a quiet demonstration in the square facing Government House. The women, most of them wearing white handkerchiefs on their heads inscribed with names of their missing loved ones, marched around the monument to the May, 1910, revolution under discreet police surveillance. Four women broke away from the group and delivered the letter to the President at Government House.

Señora Hebe de Bonafini, one of the mothers, said they would return to Government House next Thursday for a reply from the President.

Black premier for Bermuda

Hamilton.—The ruling united Bermuda party has chosen Mr John Swan the black Home Affairs Minister, as its new leader and Prime Minister of Bermuda.

Mr Swan, who is 46, is one of only six black members of the party. A wealthy businessman who owns a thriving real estate firm, he takes over from Mr David Gibbons, who resigned last year after four years in the post.

Dr Runcie ends Asian tour

Colombo.—The Archbishop of Canterbury flew back to England after 19 days of his Asian tour in which he visited China, Hongkong, Burma and Sri Lanka, where a planned four-day tour was extended to five because of weather conditions in England.

The highlights of Dr Runcie's visit to Sri Lanka were his visit to the historic Buddhist Temple of the Tooth Relic at Kandy and a special service at the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour in Colombo where Buddhist monks in saffron robes participated in a service conducted in the national languages with Sinhalese music, dancing, decor and lighting. A woman tea plucker made a symbolic offering of a bag of tea leaves during the offertory.

Police accused of homosexuality

Hong Kong.—Eight alleged homosexual police officers have been summoned to headquarters and given 14 days to explain in writing why they should be retained in the force, according to a local television report. The eight were believed to be living with other men. Homosexuality is a punishable offence by imprisonment in Hong Kong.

Nuclear talks to continue

Geneva.—United States and Soviet negotiators met for nearly two and a half hours at the Soviet mission here to continue negotiations on curbing medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe. By delegations issued no details of matters discussed but announced a further session would be held at the United States mission next Tuesday.

Fraser drive to cut strikes

Sydney.—Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister of Australia, announced that he will meet trade union leaders in an attempt to cut chronic industrial disruption which he said was seriously threatening Australia's international competitiveness. Mr Fraser told a convention of the youth branch of his Liberal Party that strikes threatened investment and destroyed job prospects for young people.

Cost of bases

Manila.—The United States has provided \$34.1m (about £16.5m) worth of helicopters, armaments and engineering equipment to the Philippines as part of the rental for the use of military bases in the country.

Paris train crash

Paris.—Two people were killed and two seriously injured in a crash involving a lorry and two commuter trains at St Gratien station north of Paris.

DEAN INJURED

Johannesburg.—A Black Lutheran clergyman, Dean T. S. Parisani, has been admitted to hospital with serious head injuries after being detained in the black homeland of Venda last month with three other black clergymen, a church spokesman said.

BULLION ROBBERY

Athens.—Two masked and armed robbers stole gold bars valued at about £250,000 from a dealer while he was carrying the bars in his car for delivery after clearing them through customs.



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE BIG BANK MUDDLE

The majority recommendation of the Monopolies Commission to turn down both bids for the Royal Bank of Scotland, and the Trade Secretary's decision to accept the recommendations, are understandable but wrong. They are understandable because neither Minister nor Commission were likely to relish allowing a take-over which would have seriously undermined the position of the Bank of England and off-ended vociferous elements of Scottish feeling. They are wrong because the grounds chosen for the rejection — that the bids would have removed decision-making from Scotland and would make British banking vulnerable to foreign decisions — are stated so as to sidestep the basic issues not to tackle them.

Even if one accepted the prominence given to the arguments for retaining an independent Scottish banking force, the fact is that the directors of the bank in this case sought themselves a merger with an international partner because they felt it necessary for the future prosperity of the Royal Bank. To reject their view still leaves the Royal Bank with all the problems that brought it to seek a merger in the first place, only now it faces a future with a divided management and a confused staff — all the more so as more than half the Royal Bank's profits come from its London-based Williams and Glyn's subsidiary.

FAIR DEALING IN FINE ART

It is almost seven years since Sotheby's and Christie's introduced a buyers' premium charge at their London auctions, but the opponents of the scheme, notably the art dealing fraternity, are even more vociferous today than they were at the start. A law suit brought over premium by the two major dealers' associations against the auctioneers was settled out of court in September, but the Office of Fair Trading is still looking into their allegations: that Sotheby's and Christie's colluded over the introduction of premium in 1975.

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IT'S ALL GREEK TO US

There is nothing like a debate over spelling for raising the blood pressure of purists and pedants the world over. The Greeks know this as well as anyone because they have been quarrelling over the proper way, not just of writing their language, but even of speaking it for the best part of two centuries. And the disputes are not over yet. At the bidding of the new Socialist government Parliament has just adopted legislation which will abolish the present system of accents. A system which was first introduced more than two thousand years ago, by the Alexandrians of the Hellenistic period, has thus been done away with in a brief amendment to an education bill, adopted in the early hours of the morning. No wonder the opposition walked out in protest.

Greek, after all, is not like some parvenu tongue of northern Europe. Its roots go back to the second millennium BC, when it was written down in Linear B, a script found on clay tablets from Knossos and elsewhere. It did

not have accents then, however, nor did it have them in the classical period, when a script much like the one in use today had been introduced, courtesy of the Phoenicians. The accents — grave, acute and a sort of semi-circular hoop — were introduced by the Alexandrians as a way of marking the stressed syllables, and the rules were complex enough to cause difficulties for generations of Greek schoolchildren, not to mention those learning Greek, both ancient and modern, in other countries.

Now the Greek Government proposes to simplify all this. Instead of three different accents, there will be only one — possibly a little triangular shape already used by some newspapers. Mr Vervakis, the Minister of Education, confidently estimates that the changes will save the average Greek schoolchild 6,000 hours of work; and that the cost of typing will be reduced by 40 per cent.

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to the Hongkong and Shanghai Corporation's bid. The Governor of the Bank of England had wanted to retain a system that effectively closed the industry to foreign bids without stating so in legislation and discreetly controlled the action of banks through the nod-and-wink. The Commission has supported the Governor's particular objection to Hongkong and Shanghai Corporation. But it has not upheld the informal system of control that he was championing.

So where can the various parties go from here? The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation will presumably retire to consider new approaches to take-overs both here and in Europe. Standard and Chartered will now have to look again at how it can move away from its current dependence on South Africa. The poor old Royal Bank will have to move fast to restore morale in its staff, to reconsider the position of the directors most committed to a merger and to find alternative ways of providing the international service which its customers are felt to want. Most sensitively of all, the Bank of England and the Government will now have to consider what they can do to restore some system of direction, through legislation or the publication of new guidelines.

And in this sorry tale of postponed decisions, it will be the customer who, as usual, loses.

the auctioneers' point of view and has been re-exported from London to New York where Sotheby's and Christie's also dominate the auction scene. Indeed, Sotheby's and Christie's together now hold a near duopoly position in fine art auctioneering world wide. This generates large profits but also entails responsibilities.

Premium is essentially a shoddy means of making the vendor believe that the auctioneer is taking a smaller cut on the sale of his goods than is in fact the case. The fact that European auctioneers traditionally made such a charge does not make the little deception any less shoddy. It was an abuse, even if a minor one, of the auctioneers' vast power in the art market that they forced the charge on Britain. It is a stain, even if a slight one, on Britain's reputation for fair dealing that they forced the charge on America.

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they do not contest these advantages, only the haste with which it is all being rushed through. Nor are they well placed to protest too much. They themselves, when they were in power, were responsible for another historic move, when they abandoned the official use of "purist" Greek in favour of "demotic". Purist Greek is an artificial language, composed in the years before Greek independence in an attempt to revive the speech of classical times, and given official standing. Demotic, which is essentially the spoken tongue, is now in the ascendant, and will be given the new, single-accent system.

There is more in this than grammar. Purist Greek is thought to indicate someone of right inclinations and the demotic to be the mark of the left; these days some supporters of the Government are provoking their opponents by using ultra-demotic forms on television and radio. How convenient it would be if syntax and sound were political giveaways in a fractional but rather more furtive Britain.

possible for the judge to reconsider his sentence.

However, I am much less concerned with one particular case than with its implications for the future. And today's statement by the Lord Chief Justice will undoubtedly ensure that future sentences will suit the gravity of the crime of rape.

Yours, etc,
JACK ASHLEY,
House of Commons.
January 15.

Reconsidered sentences

From Mr Jack Ashley, CH, MP for Stoke on Trent, South (Labour).
Sir, Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, was quite wrong in saying (January 15) that I did not know of the Court of Appeal's decision in 1978 that section 11(2) of the Courts Act 1971 should be narrowly interpreted, using it for slips of the tongue or memory and not for important changes in a sentence. I was well aware of this as it is quoted by many lawyers.

However, I am also aware, and as a distinguished lawyer, Mr Blom-Cooper ought to be aware, that Lord Edmund Davies, the law lord, came to a very different conclusion in the 1979 case of *Customs and Excise v Menocal* (vol 69, Criminal Appeal Reports, pp 166, 167).

He said specifically that section 11(2) should be widely interpreted, notwithstanding an earlier decision of a Court of Appeal.

That means there are strong grounds for suggesting that it is

Effects of abolition of corporation tax

From Mr Basil de Ferranti, MEP for Hampshire West (Conservative) and Sir Brandon Rhys Williams, MP for Kensington (Conservative) and MEP for London South East (Conservative).
Sir, The Government's Green Paper on corporation tax starts with the premise that the tax is here to stay. However, the evidence presented in the Green Paper can only lead to the conclusion that the tax should be abolished.

Of course, companies should continue to act as servants of the Inland Revenue by collecting income tax on dividends paid to stockholders via the medium of the misnamed advance corporation tax. However, the now relatively small sum raised by mainstream corporation tax could be more equitably and cheaply collected by companies for the Revenue by a minor increase in value-added tax.

The abolition of the notion that companies should be taxed like individuals would mean ensuring that there was no longer any advantage in individuals converting themselves into companies. At present, though, the Revenue has to ensure that business expenses are legitimate and they would perhaps have to increase their efforts to that end. It must be remembered that individuals can build up an asset for sale now which, if realized, is taxed as a capital gain. The abolition of corporation tax would not, therefore, create a tax loophole.

However, the staff that would be released by no longer having to define a company's taxable profit according to the law, both within companies themselves, within the accountancy profession and within the Inland Revenue, could be very substantial, even after allowing for

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ensuring effort to be applied for annual legitimacy of business expenses. Furthermore, an end to the inflation accounting argument would, in itself, release some very skilled effort for more productive ends.

Surely, most professional accountants would rather be involved in helping clients with real problems than with the unconstructive tedium of assessing profits to tax and then according to some commercially meaningless definition of profit.

The Green Paper uses the phrase "taxation of company income". This betrays a basic misunderstanding. All companies do is to collect tax. In effect, from the consumer. Corporation tax causes companies to increase their prices according to their profits. Value-added tax causes companies to increase their prices in accordance with the value that they have added. The former is arbitrary and supports the inefficient, whereas the latter enables the more efficient to invest and create jobs.

The European Commission has been seeking ways of harmonizing taxes on company profits in order to simplify business decisions and avoid distortions to trade. The simple way of harmonizing corporation tax through-out Europe would be to abolish it altogether, thereby boosting businessmen's confidence and making an important contribution to lifting the European economy off the bottom of the present recession.

Yours faithfully,
BASIL DE FERRANTI,
BRANDON RHYS WILLIAMS,
Millbank Tower, SW1.
January 14.

Music's death?

From Mr Roger Steptoe.
Sir, In his letter of despair, published today (January 9), Mr Mulford's closing questions must surely be written to provoke further coverage of the subject.

As a British composer and teacher of composition who is fortunate to derive an income from works written, I am closely involved and concerned with the state of music today. Never before has there been so much music written in so many different styles, following the large number of "schools" of compositional procedure now available either derived from study of established composers of this century (mainly through scores and writings on their work) or teachings and influences of composers associated with today living here or abroad.

Over the past twenty or so years, the increase of grants and scholarships available to composers seeking further study has increased, enabling composers of this country to learn more of the current European trends. This has obviously contributed to the furthering of our own musical heritage.

Mr Mulford asks, "Is there no hope?" The answer does not warrant a concise account of the qualities of many living composers, or indeed of the work of composers of this century (in this country alone the names of Vaughan Williams, Britten, Tippett, Walton, Bush spring to mind) but rather a plea from those active in music today directed to the concert-going public (or which presume Mr Mulford is one) to have confidence, faith and a certain sense of loyalty and adventurousness, to go to concerts with twentieth century music in the programmes, support orchestras and promoters who in their own boldness put on these works. Otherwise how can the music be

heard, evaluated and criticised? How can the composer learn and be recognised?

Who knows, without the encouragement of the public (in their turn they also provide some form of financial support), how many works of composers bite the dust of shelves and cupboards? Indeed, how much music will survive the next two years?

Yours faithfully,
ROGER STEPTOE,
53, Gloucester Avenue, NW1.

From Mrs Diana Bazalgette.
Sir, In his letter of January 7, Mr Howard contests the statements of Mr Anthony Burgess on Beethoven (article, December 29).

I would like, if I may, to add that there are very many degrees between being musical and unmusical. Some people are sensitive musical and some are cerebrally musical to greater or lesser degrees, as any music teacher will attest. Indeed, music teachers themselves vary considerably in their degrees of "musicality". Whatever the extent of an individual's musical gift it is, of course, no more a virtue to be musical than it is a sin to be unmusical.

From their writing on music, I would guess that Bernard Shaw, George Bernard Shaw, and Anthony Burgess are cerebrally musical. They would not have written (written as they did) were this not so. To be sensitively musical does not mean that the listener or performer is wallowing in lush extremes of emotion. It means that Mr Howard can apprehend the intangible heights of late Beethoven, while Mr Burgess, with his more limited musical gift, cannot. Both men will be quite happy in their own opinions, but unhappy in each other's.

Yours faithfully,
DIANA BAZALGETTE,
Cloud End, Aldington,
Ashford, Kent.

A secretary's lot

From Mrs P.C. Blomcourt.
Sir, The article "Setting the work" in the *Times* of January 9, by Ian Murray on January 9, seems to require some clarification. If the "notional" word of five strokes, usually employed for calculating typing speeds, is used, then 120 strokes per minute, or 24 words, is very fast. On the other hand, the 480 minutes typing day seems rather high. Does the girl not have a lunch break? Strokes per page seems to be low, presumably because she is using double spacing only and, so to speak, typing half a page. With the present reduction built in for other things she has to do, she is, on this reckoning, providing only 12 full pages of typing a day.

It is not clear, either, whether a copy typist or a shorthand or audio secretary is being discussed. Is she copy typing from

fairly clean copy? If she is, her estimated production is inordinately low. However, if she is transcribing her own shorthand or from audio dictation, a 24 "notional" words per minute transcribing speed, while not very high, is respectable.

Without more information one may be unfair but, on the face of it, this formula could have been devised by a committee of luddite trade unionists seeking to provide more jobs for one-handed keyboard operators. Office staff of all kinds is extremely expensive; at this rate we may expect even "unsmat" machines to take over.

Yours faithfully,
P.C. BLOM COURT, Chairman,
General Council,
Independent Secretarial Training Association,
16 Marlborough Crescent, W4.

Hydro power

From Lord Kirkhill.
Sir, I feel it incumbent upon me to respond to the views expressed by Rear-Admiral Dunbar-Nasmith, Chairman of the Highlands and Islands Development Board, in his letter to you published on January 13.

First of all, it goes without saying that the hydro board regrets as much as anyone else the loss of its major consumer, the British Aluminium Company's smelter at Invergordon. As important, however, are one or two aspects of his letter that do not quite reconcile with the statutory position of the hydro board. For example, it is not accurate to say that the hydro board acquired a monopoly of developing the hydro resources of the Highlands.

By the same Act that established the board in 1943 (before the nationalisation of the electricity supply industry in 1948) provision was made for private generation operated by water power subject to the consent of the Secretary of State for Scotland.

original charter as "to exploit the water power resources of the Highlands of Scotland by producing cheap electricity which would help to regenerate the local economy". Nowhere in the Act which established the hydro board or subsequent Acts will be found these words. He will, however, find that the Acts are quite specific about the board's functions, which are that it is the board's first duty to provide supplies to meet the demands of ordinary consumers and that this duty shall have priority over all other demands for electricity generated by the board.

It is for this reason as well as for ordinary commercial prudence that the hydro board has always insisted to government that the ordinary consumer should suffer no detriment as a result of the agreement to supply, on special terms, the Invergordon smelter, an agreement made in 1968 between the hydro board and the British Aluminium Company Limited at the instigation of the then Government. I am happy that this was and is the right and proper policy for the board to follow for the protection of its ordinary consumers.

Rear-Admiral Dunbar-Nasmith refers at some length to the possible use of the hydro board's hydro stations in order to provide a cheap power supply to Invergordon. Such an arrangement, if implemented, could only be to the disadvantage of our ordinary consumers, as it ignores the situation whereby the low cost benefits of "hydro" have already been used to meet the losses incurred — estimated at £25m per annum — in providing supplies of electricity to consumers in remote and isolated areas on an economic basis.

Finally, I should explain that to obtain the maximum economic benefit from the available water power resources, the board's conventional hydro stations have been designed to operate for a limited number of hours per day to meet the variations in normal electricity demand as opposed to the aluminium smelting industry's need for a continuous 24-hour supply.

Yours etc,
JOHN KIRK HILL,
Chairman, North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board,
16 Rotheray Terrace,
Edinburgh.

Covenanting and the papal visit

From the Bishop of Norwich.
Sir, The coincidence of your Religious Affairs Correspondent's article on the probable visit of the Pope to England at Whitsuntide, together with the letter by my close and well-loved friend Bishop Alan Clark, the Roman Catholic Bishop in East Anglia (January 4, pp. 7 and 8) underlines both the difficulty and the opportunity facing the Church of England this year.

First, the difficulty. Bishop Alan Clark speaks of the difficulties of the Roman Catholic Church over the "Ten Propositions", the theological basis of the "Covenanting Proposals" between the Church of England, the Methodist Church, the Moravian Church and the United Reform Church. He speaks of the inability of the Roman Catholic bishops to subscribe to nos. 4, 5 and 6 (admission to Communion, mutual recognition of membership, mutual recognition of ministries).

The bishop writes as chairman of the Roman Catholic Ecumenical Commission, and his letter can only be taken as underlining the *sempar eadem* nature of the unchanging claims of the Roman Catholicism, and as restating in England, a few months before the Pope's proposed visit, that welcome to Holy Communion and recognition of the reality, not only of the lay membership, but of the ordained ministry of Church of England deacons and priests and bishops, remain uncompromisingly rejected by the Church of Rome at the highest level of ecclesiastical statesmanship.

However, I am delighted that the bishop writes about the "local" level, because here in Norfolk he and I work in the warmest Christian harmony, and the Church of England, Roman Catholic and Free Church Christians are deeply involved together in social concerns, evangelistic enterprises, and particularly in educational and training matters.

The difficulty is not therefore of local relationships between Christian people, but concerns the wider, public political issue. If the Pope comes to England without offering any move towards formal recognition concerning our Church of England membership, and the validity of our priestly and episcopal orders, we are put into a "Catch 22" position. Because the great majority of English people are not willing to accept his implicit claims as Pontiff, to be "Pontifex Maximus", and the essential human channel by which Divine Grace flows to all Christians, we

could be in danger of deploring such a visit — churchly and unloving as that might seem.

But a fundamental Christian issue is at stake here; and non-Roman Christians would want to emphasise that "there is One God and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all (1 Timothy ii 5 and 6, RSV). From this follows the truth that Christ Jesus alone is the Head of His Church, and neither an earthly Pope nor the Virgin Mary herself can stand between Christ and His Church.

But simply to welcome the Pope, with papal claims unabated, could equally appear an implicit denial of our Christian Anglican inheritance. We must surely state, humbly but unequivocally, that right back to the English bishops who attended the Synod of Arles in AD 314, and before the Reformation, and before the Norman Conquest, and even before Augustine's Mission, the Church of England was the Anglican church, historic and continuing catholic church of this land, together with its sister Celtic churches in these islands. The Pope should know, beyond any peradventure, that it is to such a church and such a nation that he comes.

So much for the difficulty. The opportunity is equally real. Although the Pope's visit can only be pastoral and to his own flock it will arouse a great deal of interest. We shall want to welcome him as an honoured guest and as the brave, outspoken, traditional leader of the worldwide Roman Catholic Church. We shall be glad that in Canterbury Cathedral he will taste for himself the reality, spirituality and warmth of our Anglican worship, so biblical and congregational.

Should we not look to him also both to listen carefully to what his hosts in our Church of England would wish seriously to say to him: and to take this opportunity of making some reciprocal overtures, gestures, to indicate his own recognition of the historic Church of England as a true part of the world-wide Catholic Church of which Christ Jesus Himself is the Divine Head. I thank Bishop Alan Clark and Clifford Longley for pointing out the issues in this year, the Year of the Covenant, as well as the year of the Pope's visit.

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE NORVICK,
The Bishop's House,
Norwich.
January 6.

ILEA representation

From the Leader of the Inner London Education Authority.

Sir, Your report headlined "Schools in London may put 14 per cent on education" (January 8) repeats the familiar canard about the ILEA's rate precepting powers. You say: "Under a system peculiar to London, ILEA will pass on its demand for money to the borough councils in the form of a precept. They have to pay ILEA by law."

In fact the system you describe applies equally to the process by which the 50-odd shire county councils, which are local education authorities, derive their income from the district councils of the rest of England and Wales. The only "peculiar" aspect in inner London is that each of the borough councils elects a member of the ILEA and their representatives are fully involved in the decision-making process. Indeed the present chairman and vice-chairman of the Authority are both borough council members. District councils enjoy no such representation on the county councils.

May I also use this opportunity to shoot down two other canards which still flap across your columns on occasion? First, no government can ever "return" control of education to the inner London boroughs for the simple reason that they have never had control. The present-day ILEA provides the educational service for the whole of inner London as its predecessor bodies have done since the inception of public education a century ago. Secondly, direct democratic control of the Authority can never be "introduced". It exists already as the voters in the 35 dual GLC/ILEA constituencies can verify.

Yours faithfully,
BRYN DAVIES, Leader,
Inner London Education Authority,
County Hall, SE1.
January 12.

Sleepy stargazers

From the Director General of the Health Education Council.

Sir, In your Science Report this morning (January 12) it is stated in error that an infestation by *Vinechus* bugs in the observatory at La Silla in Chile poses a risk of European astronomers, who work there, contracting sleeping sickness as a consequence of infection by *Trypanosoma cruzi*, of which the bug is a vector.

Chagas' disease, which is caused by *T. cruzi*, is characterised by serious and sometimes lethal results of involvement of nerve ganglia in structures such as the heart, oesophagus and other parts of the gastro-intestinal tract. It is endemic in Chile, Brazil and other parts of South America. Preventive measures currently offer the only means of dealing with this disease.

The trypanosomes which cause sleeping sickness are found in the area of the African continent inhabited by the tsetse fly and are designated *rhodesiense* and *gambiense*. Infection with any of these organisms is clearly best avoided. Any sleepiness of astronomers in Chile is more likely to be due to the nocturnal nature of the job than to organic disease, though they might be running the risk of contracting cardiac or gastro-intestinal diseases.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH B. TAYLOR,
Health Education Council,
78 New Oxford Street, WC1.
January 12.

Swing together

From Mr A. D. Hewlett.

Sir, In discussing the subject of cohabitation, could those concerned please spare us the currency of the appalling word "cohabitate"? Isn't it realised that words ending in -ate are essentially passive participles (forgive my grammar) as in "employee"? People who cohabit are "cohabitators" or, better still, on the analogy of "inhabitant", they truly are "cohabitants".

There you are — that is quite a good word and I present it to the social services professionals for nothing. Yours sincerely,
A. D. HEWLETT,
Hillcrest,
Ringwood, Deal.
January 7.

Proper names

From Sir Herbert Durkin.

Sir, The ignorance of word processors on matters of style and title can be an advantage since it often identifies the unsolicited (and unwanted) correspondence. Thus to me "Dear Sir Durkin" gives an automatic, routing to the w.p.b.

But I treasure the letter addressed to H. Durkin Esq., which begins "Dear Mr. Esq. You have been specially selected from the inhabitants of Northwood to receive etc."

Yours sincerely,
HERBERT DURKIN,
Willowbank,
Drakes Drive,
Northwood,
Middlesex.
January 13



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE BIG BANK MUDDLE

The majority recommendation of the Monopolies Commission to turn down both bids for the Royal Bank of Scotland, and the Trade Secretary's decision to accept the recommendations, are understandable but wrong. They are understandable because neither Minister nor Commission were likely to relish allowing a take-over which would have seriously undermined the position of the Bank of England and offended vociferous elements of Scottish feeling. They are wrong because the grounds chosen for the rejection — that the bids would have removed decision-making from Scotland and would make British banking vulnerable to foreign decisions — are stated so as to sidestep the basic issues not to tackle them.

Even if one accepted the prominence given to the arguments for retaining an independent Scottish banking force, the fact is that the directors of the bank in this case sought themselves a merger with an international partner because they felt it necessary for the future prosperity of the Royal Bank. To reject their view still leaves the Royal Bank with all the problems that brought it to seek a merger in the first place, only now it faces a future with a divided management and a confused staff — all the more so as more than half the Royal Bank's profits come from its London based Williams and Glyn's subsidiary.

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The Society of London Art Dealers has now at last agreed to make available to the director of fair trading the evidence it has compiled bearing on the issue without which it would have been difficult to proceed. But collusion has always been a side issue. It just happens to be the only point over which the auctioneers appear to be attackable at law. The central issue, for the public as much as the dealers, is whether any charge to auction buyers should be permitted at all.

The auctioneers are sellers' agents. Until 1975 they took commission only from sellers. It would be quite unethical for them to act for both sides in a transaction, so why make a charge to buyers? The

decision to introduce premium was taken on purely commercial grounds. The market had struck a bad recession in 1973-74 and the auctioneers desperately needed to boost their income. On cheaper lots they were already charging 15 per cent (compared to only 7½ per cent before the war) and they feared that raising it to 18 or 20 per cent would scare away sellers. Both houses had recently begun to hold sales in Europe, in Geneva, Amsterdam and Florence, and had been struck by how much more profitable their sales proved when they followed the European practice of charging buyers as well as sellers. They had also been made aware of its advantages in treating with sellers; you could offer to reduce your commission, to zero if necessary, strong in the knowledge that you would be collecting a fixed percentage from buyers.

Thus the auctioneers decided to introduce premium to London, essentially as a means of obscuring the fact that they were raising their charges. It has proved highly advantageous from the auctioneers' point of view and has been re-exported from London to New York where Sotheby's and Christie's also dominate the auction scene. Indeed, Sotheby's and Christie's together now hold a near duopoly position in fine art auctioneering world wide. This generates large profits but also entails responsibilities.

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It would be good for the auctioneers' reputation, Britain's reputation and the smooth running of the international art market if they returned to the straight forward practice of charging their clients only. It would be good if Mr Gordon Borrie, director general of the Office of Fair Trading, the art dealers, or the legislature could persuade them to do so.

IT'S ALL GREEK TO US

There is nothing like a debate over spelling for raising the blood pressure of purists and pedants the world over. The Greeks know this as well as anyone because they have been quarrelling over the proper way, not just of writing their language, but even of speaking it for the best part of two centuries. And the disputes are not over yet. At the bidding of the new Socialist government Parliament has just adopted legislation which will abolish the present system of accents. A system which was first introduced more than two thousand years ago, by the Alexandrians of the Hellenistic period, has thus been done away with in a brief amendment to an education bill, adopted in the early hours of the morning. No wonder the opposition walked out in protest.

Greek, after all, is not like some parvenu tongue of northern Europe. Its roots go back to the second millennium BC, when it was written down in Linear B, a script found on clay tablets from Knossos and elsewhere. It did

not have accents then, however, nor did it have them in the classical period, when a script much like the one in use today had been introduced, courtesy of the Phoenicians. The accents — grave, acute and a sort of semi-circular hoop — were introduced by the Alexandrians as a way of marking the stressed syllables, and the rules were complex enough to cause difficulties for Greek generations of Greek schoolchildren, not to mention those learning Greek, both ancient and modern, in other countries.

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The opposition say that

the report is also evasive in that, while snuffing at the more fundamental issues of competition in the British banking system and the traditional methods of informal control by the Bank of England, it then promptly retreats from them. As the dissenting Mr R. G. Smethurst argues, the most important consideration is one of competition. And it is an element on which the Commission, while worrying much about the removal of control from Scotland to abroad, puts remarkably little emphasis. Yet the question of allowing foreign take-overs is inseparable from the issue of whether they will bring benefits in greater competition.

Few looking at the British banking scene at present, in Scotland or in the rest of the British Isles, can feel that the clearing banks would not benefit from new blood, still less when the banking profits made by the British clearers from the domestic market have been used so extensively to seek purchases of foreign banks in the U.S. or elsewhere. To say, as the Commission does, that it is not opposed to foreign ownership in principle but just this particular one in practice is simply a way of ducking the issue. It leaves all British banks theoretically vulnerable to a foreign take-over whilst denying it in this case.

Even greater uncertainty does the Commission report leave on the issue of banking control: the heart of the Bank of England's objections

And in this sorry tale of postponed decisions, it will be the customer who, as usual, loses.

to the Hongkong and Shanghai Corporation's bid. The Governor of the Bank of England had wanted to retain a system that effectively closed the industry to foreign bids without stating so in legislation and discreetly controlled the action of banks through the nod-and-the-wink. The Commission has supported the Governor's particular objection to Hongkong and Shanghai Corporation. But it has not upheld the informal system of control that he was championing.

So where can the various parties go from here? The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation will presumably retire to consider new approaches to take-overs both here and in Europe. Standard and Chartered will now have to look again at how it can move away from its current dependence on South Africa. The poor old Royal Bank will have to move fast to restore morale in its staff, to reconsider the position of the directors most committed to a merger and to find alternative ways of providing the international service which its customers are felt to want.

Most sensitively of all, the Bank of England and the Government will now have to consider what they can do to restore some system of direction; through legislation or the publication of new guidelines.

Over the past twenty or so years, the increase of grants and scholarships available to composers seeking further study has increased, enabling composers of this country to learn more of the current European trends. This has obviously contributed to the furthering of our own musical heritage.

Mr Mulford asks, "Is there no hope?" The answer does not warrant a concise account of the qualities of many living composers, or indeed of the work of composers of this century (in this context the names of Vaughan Williams, Britten, Tippett, Walton, Bush spring to mind) but rather a plea from those active in music today directed to the concert-going public (to which I presume Mr Mulford belongs) to have a little more faith and a certain sense of loyalty and adventurousness, to go to concerts with twentieth century music in the programmes, support orchestras and promoters who in their own boldness put on these works. Otherwise how can the music be

heard, evaluated and criticised? How can the composer learn and be recognised?

Who knows, without the encouragement of the public (in their turn they also provide some form of financial support), how many works of composers will survive the next two years? Yours faithfully, ROGER STEPTOE, 53, Gloucester Avenue, NW1.

From Mrs Diana Bazalgette. Sir, In his letter of January 7, Mr Howard contests the statements of Mr Anthony Burgess on Beethoven (article, December 29).

I would like, if I may, to add that there are very many degrees between being musical and unmusical. Some people are sensitive musical and some are cerebrally musical to greater or lesser degrees, as any music teacher will attest. Indeed, music teachers themselves vary considerably in the degrees of "musicality". In whatever the extent of an individual's musical gift it is, of course, no more a virtue to be musical than it is a sin to be unmusical.

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Yours faithfully, DIANA BAZALGETTE, Cloud End, Aldington, Ashford, Kent.

A secretary's lot

From Mrs P.C. Blountcourt. Sir, The article "Setting the work" by Murray on January 9, seems to require some clarification. If the "notional" word of five strokes, usually employed for calculating typing speeds, is used, then 120 strokes per minute, or 24 words, is the standard. On the other hand, if a 480 minute typing day seems rather high. Does the girl not have a lunch break? Strokes per page seems to be low, presumably because she is using double spacing only and, so to speak, typing half a page a day. With 25 per cent reduction built in for other things she has to do, she is, on this reckoning, providing only 12 full pages of typing a day.

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Without more information one may be unfair but, on the face of it, this formula could have been devised by a committee of Luddite trade unionists seeking to provide more jobs for one-handed keyboard operators. Office staff of all kinds is extremely expensive; at this rate we may expect even "unsmat" machines to take over.

Yours faithfully, P.C. BLOUNT COURT, Chairman, General Council, Independent Secretarial Training Association, 16 Marlborough Crescent, W4.

Hydro power

From Lord Kirkhill. Sir, I feel it incumbent upon me to comment on the views expressed by Rear-Admiral Nasmith, Chairman of the Highlands and Islands Development Board, in his letter to you published on January 13. First of all, it goes without saying that the hydro board regrets as much as anyone else the loss of its major consumer, the British Aluminium Company's smelter at Invergordon. As important, however, are one or two aspects of his letter that do not quite reconcile with the statutory position of the hydro board. For example, it is not accurate to say that the hydro board acquired a monopoly of developing the hydro resources of the Highlands. By the same Act that established the board in 1943 (before the nationalisation of the electricity supply industry in 1948) provision was made for private generation operated by water power subject to the consent of the Secretary of State for Scotland. Again, Rear-Admiral Nasmith quotes the hydro board's

Effects of abolition of corporation tax

From Mr Basil de Ferranti, MEP for Hampshire West (Conservative) and Sir Brandon Rhys Williams, MP for Kennington (Conservative) and MEP for London South East (Conservative). Sir, The Government's Green Paper on corporation tax starts with the premise that the tax is here to stay. However, the evidence presented in the Green Paper can only lead to the conclusion that the tax should be abolished.

Of course, companies should continue to act as servants of the Inland Revenue by collecting income tax on dividends paid to stockholders via the medium of the misnamed advance corporation tax. However, the now relatively small sum raised by mainstream corporation tax could be more equitably and cheaply collected by companies for the Revenue by a minor increase in value-added tax.

The abolition of the notion that companies should be taxed like individuals would mean ensuring that there was no longer having to remember that individuals converting themselves into companies. At present, though, the Revenue has to ensure that business expenses are legitimate and they would perhaps have to increase their efforts to that end. It must be remembered that individuals can build up an asset for sale now which, if realized, is taxed as a capital gain. The abolition of corporation tax would not, therefore, create a tax loophole.

However, the staff that would be released by no longer having to define a company's taxable profit according to the law, but within companies themselves, within the accountancy profession and within the Inland Revenue, could be very substantial, even after allowing for additional effort to be applied for ensuring the legitimacy of business expenses. Furthermore, an end to the inflation accounting argument would, in itself, release some very skilled effort for more productive ends.

Surely, most professional accountants would rather be involved in helping clients with real problems than with the unconstructive tedium of assessing liability to tax in accordance to some commercially meaningless definition of profit.

The Green Paper uses the phrase "taxation of company income". This betrays a basic misunderstanding. All companies do is to collect tax, in effect, from the consumer. Corporation taxes cause companies to increase their prices according to their profits. Value-added tax causes companies to increase their prices in accordance with the value that they have added.

The Church of Rome, the highest level of ecclesiastical statesmanship.

However, I am delighted that the bishop writes about the "local" level, because here in Norfolk he and I work in the warmest Christian harmony, and church of England, Roman Catholic and Free Church Christians are deeply involved together in social concerns, evangelistic enterprises, and particularly in educational and training matters.

The difficulty is not therefore of local relationships between Christian people, but concerns the wider, public political issue. If the Pope comes to England without any message towards formal recognition of our Church of England membership, and the validity of our priestly and episcopal orders, we are put into a "Catch 22" position. Because the great majority of English people are not willing to accept his inflexible claims as Pontiff, to be "Pontifex Maximus", and the essential human channel by which Divine Grace flows to all Christians, we

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original charter as "to exploit the water power resources of the Highlands of Scotland by producing cheap electricity which would be used to regenerate the local economy". Nowhere in the Act which established the hydro board or subsequent Acts will be found these words. He will, however, find that the Acts are quite specific about the board's functions, which are that it is the board's first duty to provide supplies to meet the demands of ordinary consumers and that its duty shall have priority over all other demands for electricity generated by the board.

It is for this reason as well as for ordinary commercial prudence that the hydro board has always insisted to government that the ordinary consumer should suffer no detriment as a result of the agreement to supply, on special terms, the Invergordon smelter, an agreement made in 1968 between the hydro board and the British Aluminium Company Limited at the instigation of the then Government. I am happy that this was and is the right and proper policy for the board to follow for the protection of its ordinary consumers.

Rear-Admiral Nasmith refers at some length to the possible use of the hydro board's hydro stations in order to provide a cheap power supply to Invergordon. Such an arrangement, if implemented, could only be to the disadvantage of our ordinary consumers, as it ignores the situation whereby the low cost benefits of "hydro" have already been used to meet the losses incurred — estimated at £25m per annum — in providing supplies of electricity to consumers in remote and isolated areas on an economic basis.

Finally, I should explain that to obtain the maximum economic benefit from the available water power resources, the board's conventional hydro stations have been designed to operate for a limited number of hours per day to meet the variations in normal electricity demand as opposed to the aluminium smelting industry's need for a continuous 24-hour supply.

Yours etc, JOHN KIRK HILL, Chairman, North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board, 16 Rothersey Terrace, Edinburgh.

Covenanting and the papal visit

From the Bishop of Norwich. Sir, The coincidence of your Religious Affairs Correspondent's article on the probable visit of the Pope to England at Whitstide, together with the letter by my close and well-loved friend Bishop Alan Clark, the Roman Catholic Bishop in East Anglia (January 4, pp. 7 and 8) underlines both the difficulty and the opportunity facing the Church of England this year.

First, the difficulty. Bishop Alan Clark speaks of the difficulties of the Roman Catholic Church over the "Ten Propositions", the theological basis of the "Covenanting Proposals" between the Church of England, the Methodist Church, the Moravian Church and the United Reform Church. He speaks of the inability of the Roman Catholic Pope to subscribe to nos. 4, 5 and 6 (admission to Communion, mutual recognition of membership, mutual recognition of ministries).

The bishop writes as chairman of the Church of England Ecumenical Commission, and his letter can only be taken as underlining the *semper eadem* nature of the unchanging claims of the Roman Catholicism, and as restating in England, a few months before the Pope's proposed visit, that welcome to Holy Communion and recognition of the reality, not only of the lay membership, but of the ordained ministry of Church of England deacons and priests and bishops, remain uncompromisingly rejected by the Church of Rome.

However, I am delighted that the bishop writes about the "local" level, because here in Norfolk he and I work in the warmest Christian harmony, and church of England, Roman Catholic and Free Church Christians are deeply involved together in social concerns, evangelistic enterprises, and particularly in educational and training matters.

The difficulty is not therefore of local relationships between Christian people, but concerns the wider, public political issue. If the Pope comes to England without any message towards formal recognition of our Church of England membership, and the validity of our priestly and episcopal orders, we are put into a "Catch 22" position. Because the great majority of English people are not willing to accept his inflexible claims as Pontiff, to be "Pontifex Maximus", and the essential human channel by which Divine Grace flows to all Christians, we

could be in danger of deploring such a visit — a church and an unloving as that might seem. But a fundamental Christian issues are at stake here: and non-Roman Christians would want to emphasise that "there is One God and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all (1 Timothy ii 5 and 6, RSV). From this follows the truth that Christ Jesus alone is the Head of His Church, and neither an earthly Pope nor the Virgin Mary herself can stand between Christ and His Church.

But simply to welcome the Pope, with papal claims unabated, could equally appear an implicit denial of our Christian Anglican inheritance. We must surely state, humbly but unequivocally, that right back to the English bishops who attended the Synod of Arles in AD 314, and before the Reformation, and before the Norman Conquest, and even before Augustine's Mission, the Church in England was the Anglican church, historic and continuing catholic church of this land, together with its sister Celtic churches in these islands. The Pope should know, beyond any peradventure, that it is to suit a church and such a nation that he comes.

So much for the difficulty. The opportunity is equally real. Although the Pope's visit can only be pastoral and to his own flock it will arouse a great deal of interest. We shall want to welcome him as an honoured guest, and as the brave, outspoken, traditional leader of the worldwide Roman Catholic Church. We shall be glad that in Canterbury Cathedral he will taste for himself the reality, spirituality and warmth of our Anglican worship, so biblical and congregational.

Should we not look to him also both to listen carefully to what his hosts in our Church of England would wish seriously to say to him: and to take this opportunity of making some reciprocal action, or gesture, to indicate our recognition of the historic Church of England as a true part of the world-wide Catholic Church of which Christ Jesus Himself is the Divine Head.

I thank Bishop Alan Clark and Clifford Longley for pointing out the issues in this year, which is likely to be known as the Year of the Covenant, as well as the year of the Pope's visit.

Yours faithfully, MAURICE NORKVIC, The Bishop's House, Norwich, January 6.

ILEA representation

From the Leader of the Inner London Education Authority. Sir, Your report headlined "Schools in London may put 14 per cent on education" is full of errors that on inspection by Vinciuca bugs in the observatory at La Silla in Chile poses a risk of European astronomers, who work there, contracting sleeping sickness as a consequence of infection with *Trypanosoma cruzi*, of which this bug is a vector.

Chagas' disease, which is caused by *T. cruzi*, is characterized by serious and sometimes lethal results of involvement of nerve ganglia in structures such as the heart, oesophagus and other parts of the gastro-intestinal tract. It is endemic in Chile, Brazil and other parts of South America. Preventive measures currently offer the only means of dealing with this disease.

The trypanosomes which cause sleeping sickness are found in the area of the African continent inhabited by the tsetse fly and are designated *rhodesiense* and *gambiense*. Infection with any of these organisms is clearly best avoided. Any sleepiness of astronomers in Chile is more likely to be due to the nocturnal nature of the job than to organic disease, though they might be running the risk of contracting cardiac or gastro-intestinal diseases.

Yours faithfully, KEITH B. TAYLOR, Health Education Council, 78 New Oxford Street, WC1, January 12.

Swing together

From Mr A. D. Hewlett. Sir, In discussing the subject of cohabitation, could those concerned please spare us the currency of the appalling word "cohabitee"? Isn't it realised that words ending in -ee are essentially passive participles (forgive my grammar!) as in "employee"? People who cohabit are "cohabitators", or, better still, in the analogy of "inhabitant", they truly are "cohabitants".

There you are — that is quite a good word and I present it to the social services professionals for nothing.

Yours sincerely, A. D. HEWLETT, Hiltrest, Ringwood, Deal, January 7.

Proper names

From Sir Herbert Durkin. Sir, The ignorance of word processors on matters of style and title can be an advantage since it often identifies the unsolicited (and unwanted) correspondence. Thus to me "Dear Sir Durkin" gives an automatic routing to the w.p.s.

But I treasure the letter addressed to H. Durkin Esq., which begins "Dear Mr. Esq. You have been specially selected from the inhabitants of Northwood to receive etc."

Yours sincerely, HERBERT DURKIN, Willowbank, Drakes Drive, Northwood, Middlesex, January 13.

Reconsidered sentences

From Mr Jack Ashley, CH, MP for Stoke on Trent, South (Labour). Sir, Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, was quite wrong in saying (January 15) that I did not know of the Court of Appeal's decision in 1978 that section 11(2) of the Courts Act 1971 should be narrowly interpreted, using it for slips of the tongue or memory and not for important changes in a sentence. I was well aware of this as it is quoted by many lawyers.

However, I am also aware, and as a distinguished lawyer, Mr Blom-Cooper ought to be aware, that Lord Edmund Davies, the law lord, came to a very different conclusion in the 1979 case of *Customs and Excise v Menocal* (vol 69, Criminal Appeal Reports, pp 166, 167).

He said specifically that section 11(2) should be widely interpreted, notwithstanding an earlier decision of a Court of Appeal.

That means there are strong grounds for suggesting that it is

possible for the judge to reconsider his sentence.

However, I am much less concerned with one particular case than with its implications for the future. And today's statement by the Lord Chief Justice will undoubtedly ensure that future sentences will suit the gravity of the crime of rape.

Yours, etc, JACK ASHLEY, House of Commons, January 15.

Saturday Review

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, born January 30, 1882, was the only President of the United States to be elected four times. With his wife Eleanor he occupied the White House from 1933 to 1945; he died in office. Only this week, in a poll of historians and political scholars, he was named third best, after Lincoln and Washington, of all American Presidents. Joseph Alsop, most distinguished of Washington journalists is, through his mother, a member of the Roosevelt "clan", and so knew FDR intimately both as political writer and family visitor. These photographs, and the extract below, are from his centenary memoir, *FDR 1882-1945: The Life and Times of Franklin D. Roosevelt*, which is to be published on February 1 by Thames and Hudson at £10.50.

FDR



The State Senator and Family (wife Eleanor, daughter Anne, mother Sara) in 1911 at their Canadian island summer home, Campobello; their regular home was then at Albany, the New York state capital.



The quintessential FDR, features made familiar by thousands of newspaper cartoons: "He was against misery, poverty, oppression, cruelty, injustice, meanness, smallness...and he was a stout friend of plenty, generosity, decency, liberality, geniality, openness, justice, and freedom."



The Governor on his way to the White House: in 1930 — the year of this photograph at Hyde Park, New York — FDR convincingly retained the governorship of New York state, and secretly resolved on pursuit of the Presidential nomination in 1932. Having won that, he attacked the Republicans' natural electoral majority with a whistle-stop tour, exhibited his limitless energy, buoyancy and charm and produced the first Roosevelt landslide.



The Navy Secretary! The style and infectious high spirits that were FDR's hallmark break through (left) in July 1920 on the streets of Washington, in the month when he became the Democrats' nominee for Vice-President (with James Cox); Harding and Coolidge won by a landslide.

FDR caught poliomyelitis at Campobello in 1921: he never regained the use of his legs, but he refused to let the disability affect his career or his enjoyment of life.



On October 21, 1944, running for President for a fourth term, Roosevelt drove for hours through cold New York rain in an open limousine as thousands lined the streets from the Bronx to Lower Manhattan. "I was really worried," Eleanor wrote, "but instead of being exhausted he was exhilarated."

Washington in the 1930s was still small and safe, and the government in Washington was still on a small and human scale. The best symbol of the change that has overtaken Washington is the ornamental cast iron barrier protecting the White House lawns and grounds. It is now around nine feet high and reinforced in various ways. Theodore Roosevelt had ordered its installation to prevent his lawns being used as a public right of way — and had been denounced as unneighborly for his pains. Until the Second World War seemed imminent and the Secret Service insisted upon something higher and more secure, the barrier was low enough to be easily vaulted over by a reasonably athletic ten-year-old. It was raised to its present height because of Puerto Rican terrorists' attempt to assassinate President Truman.

Although Franklin Roosevelt had suffered one assassination attempt (in February, 1933), when Mayor Anton Cermak of Chicago was killed by his side in Miami, the Secret Service in the Roosevelt years was always unobtrusive. Nor did you need security clearance or a special card to enter any building in Washington, including the White House itself. The gates were always open; if you were a newspaperman, you were known to everyone; and you just walked into the Presidential office wing of the White House, hung up your hat in the pressroom, and asked friends, "What's new?"

The same difference of scale and ease of access between the present and the past are apparent in Roosevelt's White House staff and in his famous press conferences — the only ones that ever came close to giving real substance to the cliché about American press conferences having the role of question time in the British Parliament. There literally was no White House staff of the modern type, with policy-making functions. Two extremely pleasant, unassuming, and efficient men, Steve Early



"Most Americans were proud of the Roosevelt White House, and...right to be proud"

and Marvin McIntyre, handled the President's day-to-day schedule and routine, the donkey-work of his press relations, and such like.

There was a secretarial camarilla of highly competent and dedicated ladies who were led by "Missy" LeHand, an efficient, very pretty woman who was widely supposed (I never knew whether correctly) to have been the President's resident mistress for a good many years. There were also lesser figures to handle travel arrangements, the enormous flow of correspondence, and the like. But that was that; and national policy was strictly a problem for the President, his advisers of the moment (who had constant access to the President's office but no offices of their own in the White House), and his chosen chiefs of departments and agencies.

As for the famous press conferences, anything of the sort would be totally ruled out now by the enormous inflation of the news-handling business, both in size and self-importance. Today, Presidential press conferences are like vast but occasional circuses, with preening personalities desiring to see themselves on the television screen, all simultaneously screaming for

attention, while the unfortunate President of the day struggles to transmit his chosen message to the nation. Roosevelt's press conferences were downright cozy, in contrast, with no one there but seasoned professional reporters, all of whom knew one another and did not wish to make asses of themselves before their colleagues or the President they much liked and admired. There were seldom more of them, furthermore, than a hundred or so, and never, never more than two hundred. Before this intimate congregation, almost all known individually to the President, Roosevelt would sit behind his desk, perpetual cigarette in its holder tilted to the accustomed angle, full of confidence and jokes, and above all giving the reporters much information of value to them and to the country.

The reader may suspect me of nostalgia, and the suspicion is well-founded. Since I have gone so far, I may as well go farther. I had the good luck to be assigned to the Paris like Roosevelt's New York home) for the weekend of the 1936 election and election night. With great difficulty, Mrs. James Roosevelt (the President's daughter-in-law) had been induced to invite everyone to the election night party; all the reporters like myself, the two or three radio reporters (for there was no television then, of course), the entire White House staff from secretaries to advisers in attendance, all the Secret Service men, even the cameramen. Perhaps because her mother-in-law had so strongly resisted the whole project, the commissary had been left to Eleanor Roosevelt, and therefore largely consisted of damp, dank, ostentatiously dreary roast beef sandwiches. But there was plenty to drink, and it was a jolly party.

Mrs. James Roosevelt went among her guests, dispensing graciousness with just a trace of the tone of the lady of the manor reluctantly opening a bazaar she

considered unworthy of her presence. Eleanor Roosevelt went about, too, very much herself, at once wonderful and a bit puritanical (she had a way of glancing at the quantities of Scotch in people's glasses) but above all dispensing a warm welcome to all. Landon conceded the election very early; and the whole troop formed in line and passed in review before the President seated at the dining room table, cocking his cigarette in its holder as usual, and accepting our congratulations with obvious pleasure.

I do not suppose any American President on any future election night will ever again be able to have another family party — for that was what it was like — of the sort I remember so well. Yet there were not more than fifty-plus of us, all told, on that evening in 1936; and we were the entire entourage of the President who had done more in his first term to change the United States than any succeeding President has ever begun to do, or even thought of doing, in his whole period in office.

As for the way the Roosevelts lived in the White House, the description involves a phrase seldom used now; yet the best way to put it is to say that they lived like a rather old-fashioned American gentleman's family in "comfortable circumstances". Despite the liveried doormen, in other words, there was nothing in the way they lived that could be said in the smallest degree to be glossy, or particularly conspicuous, or likely to meet with the approval of the new group known as the "beautiful people".

As a young man, the President had always got his suits from an English tailor, as was usual in those days for men of his sort, and I suspect he went on doing so — but he rarely took trouble about what he wore, and he only allowed himself two pairs of new shoes per annum. No one in his senses could have hankered to know, either, which leading New York dressmaker was patronized

by Eleanor Roosevelt. Her wedding dress (in 1905) was no doubt ordered from Worth in Paris, for that was then the custom of clans like hers in New York, and her family must have provided her with a trousseau which would pass inspection. But when the trousseau was worn out, one may be certain she never again saw the inside of a leading dressmaker's establishment. As for her hats, on the rare occasions when convention required her to cover her head, they usually had the look of having been recently found under the bed.

Then, too, the White House interiors were no more decorated than Eleanor Roosevelt herself. Shabby things and new things, hideous things and fine things, jostled one another everywhere in the private rooms on the second, or private, floor of the White House, while the walls were all but papered with naval prints from the President's collection. The "beautiful people" would not have felt at home; yet their strongest disdain would surely have been aroused by what appeared on the White House table — in this case with justice.

The drink, being the President's department, was not actively repellent. For a small party, he would usually make the cocktails himself with great gusto. What wine there was could sometimes be pretty good, but there was not much wine. As for the food, it was notorious.

Eleanor Roosevelt had imported a nutritionist to be the Presidential housekeeper, and year after year this woman showed once again that nutritionists may well know how to make food healthful, but scorn to make it appetizing or even edible. The salads were especially deplorable; for they tended to be complicated and decorative, and might even conceal bits of marshmallow in their dreadful depths. But all else was pretty depressing, too. Martha Cellhorn once astonished her husband-to-be, Ernest Hemingway, by eating a hearty meal of sandwiches



"Eleanor's hats...had the look of having been found under the bed"

before they went to dinner at the White House. What the nutritionist perpetrated was only part of the story, moreover. Scrambled eggs are not an easy dish to cook in such a way that hungry men turn away in discouragement, yet the scrambled eggs Eleanor Roosevelt always made in a chafing dish for Sunday night supper were undeniably discouraging.

The oddest aspect of the White House cuisine, nonetheless, was the fate of the near-carloads of pheasant, quail, partridge, reed bird, wild duck, wild turkey, venison, antelope, even terrapin from Maryland, which came into the White House every year from rural areas all over the country. Since all these birds and beasts were moving proofs of the near-love the President inspired in many Americans, and also very good to eat, you might have supposed the game would have been eaten. Instead, it always went into the big cellar ice boxes and was never seen on the White House table unless Eleanor Roosevelt happened to be taking one of her innumerable trips when her husband sometimes asked for a game dinner.

I suspected then and I still suspect that this extreme puritanism about food in a house whose master liked to eat well, and who

particularly loved old-fashioned grand food like game, was only partly another manifestation of Eleanor Roosevelt's detestation of anything savouring of worldly ways. She was never against quiet evenings with a moral excuse. She equated plain living with high thinking, so it was moral to eat badly. And if her husband did not like eating badly, why, there were passages in their joint past she had not liked either.

All the same, I cannot recall the Roosevelt White House today without a severe spasm of nostalgia. I was not asked there often — usually for the family festivals each year, sometimes for the regular Sunday suppers, more rarely when one of my mother's visits to Washington or something similar provided a special pretext. But on all occasions when I could form a judgment — and leaving the food aside — the style of life in the White House in the Roosevelt years struck me as pretty close to the perfect style of a President.

Both Roosevelts were always warmly welcoming, totally unpretentious, and easy with their guests in precisely the right way. The company was usually haphazardly mixed — old friends, high officials, the odd distinguished foreigner, members of the family, often one or two of the waits and strays Eleanor Roosevelt had a habit of picking up here and there on her trips — but the company was seldom dull and no one was ever asked for mere show. The state rooms were as grand as the White House state rooms ought to be; but even on major occasions, no attempt was made to heighten the grandeur by false fanfare or fake reverence. The simple, generous hospitality of an old-fashioned American gentleman's house was always the note, even if the food was a flaw. Barring the Roosevelt-baiters, most Americans were proud of the Roosevelt White House and in my opinion they were right to be proud.

© Joseph Alsop

Lawrence Kasdan

Scriptwriter-director of *Body Heat*
opening at the Warner West End on Thursday



Front line

Hollywood has long been notorious for treating writers badly. But in recent years the pendulum has swung the other way, and screenwriting has become the shortest route to directing a feature film. At 32, Lawrence Kasdan is the latest to step on this creative escalator — his screenplays for *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Raiders of the Lost Ark* won him the chance to write and direct *Body Heat*, which has been much praised in America and opens in London next week. It is a steamy melodrama about a calculating woman and her lawyer-lover who plot to murder her husband for his money.

If the story sounds familiar, it is no accident. *Body Heat* is squarely in the M. Cain tradition of novels and films like *Double Indemnity* and *The Postman Always Rings Twice*. "It's a contemporary story, though," says Kasdan. "That's a difference I actually began with the lawyer, who's a young man in America today dealing with ideas of what a man is, and money and success and sex: concerns that are close to me and to my generation. I put him in a film noir format. One of the things that was great about film noir was a relish about the language, I miss that terribly in most modern movies. My dialogue had to be always one step removed from the colloquial. Plenty of people try to make realistic films. I wanted to make a film which is better than life, where people are smarter and funnier than the people you meet, where they say things which are brighter and more cynical than you or I could ever say."

"I think a lot of people have the wrong idea about me because of *Empire* and *Raiders*. I've never been particularly interested in

those big spectaculars. *Body Heat* is much more a typical script of mine — it's really nothing but two hours of people talking to one another. Audiences have got out of the habit of listening to films, but I think they can be persuaded to listen if the plot is sufficiently exciting."

Though his concern for the supremacy of his words sounds authentic for a writer, the stocky, Kasdan claims this is another misconception. "I always wanted to be a director. A lot of writers turn to directing in order to protect what they wrote. For me, it was the other way around. Writing was a skill I had, so I used it to get into the position where I could direct."

Kasdan's career began when he studied at the University of Michigan. "I went there because they have a very lucrative writing competition. I had heard Arthur Miller had won it and helped put himself through college that way. I was able to do the same. I ended up with a degree in education, thinking I would teach high school and write screen plays in my spare time. It turned out to be a lot harder to become a high school English teacher than to become a movie director."

Instead, Kasdan spent seven years working in advertising and writing at night. "The first script I ever sold was called *Bodyguard* and I have now sold it three separate times. It's never been filmed and my father-in-

law keeps telling me I shouldn't let them film it — it's like my annuity. The second screenplay I sold was *Continental Divide* and that really fulfilled every screenwriter's dream, of finishing a script one day, and the next day four studios are bidding against each other for the rights."

After various production vagaries, *Continental Divide* was filmed this summer by the British director Michael Apted. Meanwhile, Kasdan had met George Lucas and agreed to rewrite the second in the *Star Wars* series.

"What happened was that at one point Steve Spielberg was going to direct *Continental Divide* and it was through him that I met George Lucas. I really did *Empire* to help George out at a time when he was under a lot of pressure. The film didn't really turn out the way I'd have liked — the things I admire about it have nothing to do with what I wrote. *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, on the other hand, is very faithful to my script. When I came to direct *Body Heat* I one of the experiments I wanted to try was to 'shoot the script'. I think very often directors make too many changes, and that's why we wind up with so many bad movies. It's a fashion."

Body Heat pairs a newcomer, Kathleen Turner, with William Hurt — the United States critics' unanimous choice for the New Male Movie Star after his performance in *Altered States* and *The Janitor*.

"Bill Hurt forced me to hire him," Kasdan says. "Simply by being so good. The first time I saw him was in *The Janitor* for Peter Yates. He came to my hotel and we started drinking, which is never such a good idea. We talked for five hours. Bill is highly intelli-



"The director re-makes in his own image," Lawrence Kasdan at work

gent, but sometimes his thoughts go faster than his articulation. A lot of differences emerged between us in our approaches to the script. He's a forceful personality and I was ready to let him go. Fortunately, he wasn't ready to let me go. He came back and he was the character so completely I had to hire him. I love actors, anyway. I think Hollywood's reliance on stars, which they still retain, is enormously destructive. There's this great log-jam of talented American actors sitting out there in theatre and television. One of the tasks I'd like to set myself as a director is to introduce as many new faces as possible.

"I had intended to give up writing once I started to direct. I don't like the

loneliness of writing. But I've found what I half suspected in advance, that it's very hard to find a script you want to devote 18 months of your life to making. I'm still not sure what a screenwriter does — I don't think anybody else is either. My latest definition is that he or she makes the film in his head. Then he puts it down on paper so other people can see it for the first time. That film will never get shown in a cinema. What the director then does is come in and remake that film in his own image. But that's very different from starting from nothing. Only the writer does that."

Joan Goodman

New York/John Heilpern

How can they follow Nickleby?

Now that we are all "Nicklebied out" — which is a new American expression meaning "to be totally exhausted pleasantly" — and that the triumphant *Nicholas Nickleby* troupe has given quite unalterably and positively its last performance on Broadway (or anywhere), it is time to pause awhile and take stock of the common culture that divides us.

The virtually unprecedented scenes that took place on *Nickleby*'s farewell performance — a thunderous 15-minute ovation; tears on both sides of the footlights; speeches from the stage; the celebrated \$100 ticket selling for as much as \$1,500 — are evidence enough of New York's joyful appreciation that there was never an array of historic talent as assembled on one stage" as the good Mr Crummles puts it.

Undoubtedly, the Royal Shakespeare Company will be greatly missed on Broadway not least by the blind beggar, who at the end of each performance positioned himself outside the theatre, cleverly sang selections from *Oliver*, and was to benefit so much from the Dickensian charity dispensed most generously by the recently reformed *Nickleby* theatre-goers that he is now believed to have retired to a beach house in Florida.

I am tempted to declare, in a burst of nationalistic pride, that the reason *Nicholas Nickleby* was received with such euphoria on Broadway is simply because British actors are, without doubt and absolutely, the best. This was why my view of the RSC's visit was, Oh to be in America now that England is here. Like-minded paternalism has led, however, to such things as the American War of Independence, and I had better watch my superlatives.

Let us say that British and American actors are different. To name but one, that fine young American actor, Peter MacNicol, who has been cast for the sought-after role of Stingo in the film version of *Sophie's Choice* and is currently appearing to much acclaim on Broadway in *Crimes of the Heart*, was recently discussing how he keeps his nightly performance fresh. "I'll do something different, or I'll change something," he said. "In the scene where I take a business

card out of my pocket, I'll pull it out of my breast pocket, or maybe I'll take it out of my side pocket. Maybe I'll pull out a dollar bill along with the business card. One night I had a cork in my pocket..."

Or perhaps one night Mr MacNicol parts his hair on the right, then on the left, then down the middle. He is, as American actors tend to do, worrying about the surface of things in depth. Thus, Americans are preoccupied with "behaviour" and "naturalism", whereas British actors are concerned most of all with language.

It is why Britain consistently produces the finest classical actors, viz *Nickleby*, whereas America produces the best film actors and modern heroes, viz Brando. The two opposites grow out of two very different traditions, as different as vintage port is to Californian wine. Californian wine can be excellent, by the way.

Then again, unlike Britain, America has no subsidized national theatre, no real equivalent to our Arts Council, no strong repertory system, and no tradition of ensemble acting. In a year that has seen the budget for the National Endowment for the Arts in America sliced wickedly in half, while at the same time the budget for its military bands has risen to a record \$89.7m a year, one can see where American priorities in the arts are to be found. For all its admiration of the system that produced *Nicholas Nickleby*, America prefers, it seems, to march to the rousing sound of *The Stars and Stripes Forever*.

It also prefers — because it cannot help itself — profit, that has been well said that American theatre has to be a killing rather than a living. In theatre, America goes after the American Dream via the throw of the dice, the popular mainstream show and the star system. If, as was rumored, the production of *Nicholas Nickleby* was to be continued on Broadway with an American cast, you can bet your bottom dollar that Al Pacino would end up as Nicholas and David Bowie would play Smike, or the other way round. Trevor Nunn could be played by Bob Fosse, but only if Mr Fosse were permitted to include a heart-rending dance sequence based on his own life story.

My point is that Broadway is not in business to hold up a mirror to life, but to entertain. So its West End. But the West End is the mercifully balanced by the option of subsidized theatre and it receives injections of life from it. It's a vital difference. In a recent American TV show the comic Steve Martin, who understands these things, came on as the Elephant Man with an enormous trunk attached to his nose and great Dumbo ears. "If you have an elephant man, a human pin cushion, a Sinatra, a showbiz," "That's right," the level-headed Elephant Man replied. "I don't want to be cured. I'm despicable and disgusting — but that's where the money is."

Whether, then, the theatre of O'Neill, Odets, Williams and Miller? It has been partially overtaken, I think, by the predominance of the big American musical — a highly commercial form of theatre, with a potential life-expectancy of a quarter of a century, that is able to appeal easily to any nationality. More important, though not quite to the extent of Britain, American theatre suffers badly from the influence of television, which during the last decade in America has risen to an all time low.

There have, for example, been more Broadway hits about physical deformity, blindness, deafness and dying than I care to mention. But all reflect the nation's daily TV diet of soap operas and "concerned" movies about real-life tragedies. This season alone there have been no less than six Broadway plays that star a wheelchair, or a star in one, (Katharine Hepburn, Claudette Colbert, and Anne Bancroft). I am not counting the bathchair in *Amadeus*.

Even audiences are different. Because theatre tickets are twice as expensive in America as in England, though programmes are free, which is a fat lot of use — it isn't surprising that American audiences are determined to enjoy themselves, if it kills them. Unlike the traditionally reserved British audience, Americans are prone to give standing ovations to anything that pleases them.

Mere rapturous applause will not do. It has reached the point when, should a cast stroll by accident across the Broadway stage it would surely receive a standing ovation too, particularly if it were tap-dancing at the time. And all this typically American enthusiasm is to the good, though many have been the occasion when at the end of a play a cheering Broadway audience has ruined my displeasure.

As the *Nickleby* actors will testify, American audiences are different to the British. "Hi!" they would say, thrusting out a hand to the hesitant *Nickleby* actor who ventured into the audience during the show. "Welcome to New York! Howayadoin'?" And the answer would have to be "Great!" But one shouldn't rest easy. I don't think America can produce a *Nicholas Nickleby*. But then, I would doubt whether Britain could produce the modern musical to match the contribution of America. Because in the essentials of theatre and theatregoing we are united, if only by our differences.



Roger Rees as Nicholas

Opera/Hilary Finch

Two heroes in Hoffmann

The ovations will doubtless be longer, the stapedoor more heavily thronged when Plácido Domingo returns on Monday to John Schlesinger's centenary production of *Hoffmann* which he inspired and inspired a year ago. But for the first night of its revival, William Lewis, the American tenor making his London debut as Hoffmann, brought to the role a compellingly perceptive, fiercely individual and keenly musical understanding that was enough to put any future Hoffmann on his mettle.

His voice is not beautiful; yet he uses the sharp edge of his tone that gives it so much, and such a French, character to carve out a vigorously memorable figure of the poet which shifts and develops throughout the three tales. Ravaged, weary, yet able to burst into despairing, staring-eyed energy in the Prologue, he revealed in his "Kleinwach" song, a glimpse of that emotional range and colour that was to span the

irrational, the despairingly physical, and the ardently adoring, before returning, unflagging, to a gripping projection of the Epilogue's isolation, pity and fear.

Co-hero of the evening was the conductor Jacques Delacôte, close to the heart of Offenbach's music, and its performers, drawing from the orchestra an energy as broad yet sharply and vivaciously detailed as Schindler's magnificent, and magnificently sung crowd scenes, as aware as the production is of the darkness as well as the elegant fantasy of the work. Its momentum could be both savage and lightly sprung, from the bloom of the perfectly paced Barcarolle to the elan of the love duets, the diabolic intensity of the Act III trios. The first newcomer to make his appearance was Stafford Dean as an assured, coldly sinister Lindorf, balanced nicely by Diana Montague, lithe, bright of eye and voice. Although Thomas

Allen's Dappertutto his "Scientille Diamant" unfolding like black velvet, made one wish, for a moment, that the male roles were tele-scoped, the individual excellence of the three ladies once again vindicated Covent Garden's decision to cast separately.

After the mechanical virtuosity of Olympia, Luciano Serra as thrillingly incisive as ever, Josephine Veasey as the new Giulietta brought a virile range of emotion to the courtesan's role, while Leona Mitchell's Antonia, larger than life, let alone consumptive death, was a moving fusion of shining strength and dusky languor.

Among the still strongly cast minor characters, Peter Jeffes and Glenville Hargraves, both making their debuts with the Royal Opera, were bright splashes of vocal and physical colour in the shadowy opening and closing of this increasingly satisfying production.

Radio/David Wade

Men in love

Peter Redgrave's "fairy tale for adults" *Florent and the Tuxedo Millions* (January 10) was an assured Radio 3 production from Bristol by Brian Miller. Angharad Rees in a dove-like voice played Florence Florent, a Cambridge graduate who joins a firm of private detectives, only to learn on her male partner's death that he has been using her divorce case investigations to divert a stream of highly sociable ladies to himself.

Deeply offended on her feminism, she soldiers on alone, unsuccessfully, until, with several other private eyes, she is commissioned under the will of the late Tuxedo to search out the answer to "What do men really love?" The question is the right answer (as defined by Tuxedo) with inherent due proportions of his huge wealth.

Florence's investigations lead her finally to the oldest man in the world. He imparts the secret to her — though not to us — on condition that she marries him. She consents, repairs her foot to the Tuxedo executor and, lo and behold, she's the only one who's got it. The answer: "Sovereignty. Inconfirmation of which Tuxedo's body evaporates in its casket. For heaven's sake, where are we now?"

Where we are is in the midst of "a feminist fantasy-comedy" so the question is to be taken literally: "What do men really love?" Not mankind but men as opposed to women. Men like to be boss. It seemed a long and not exceptionally entertaining way to have come to be told what is after all true only for some men some of time and generally amid a heap of other things we love.

Florence marries her geriatric and even finds some unforced affection for the poor old stick. So much so in fact that he, engagingly and in the best fairy tale fashion, regains his youth, transmogrifying into a fine young black. But when she sees him, Florence seems to reassert the play's less interesting preoccupation. She inquires, "Who's going to be the boss?"

I doubt if Florence would have gone much of the way to the answer to her question is an uncompromising "The Man". This was a bit of information communicated by Paul Boateng's *Rastafari: Black Redempter* (Radio 4, Jan 7 and 10) in which he described a movement whose most noteworthy characteristic is the degree to which it matches the classic model of the minority group struggling for identity.

The history of the Jews gives many good examples and, as if to echo it, the condition of blacks throughout the world was referred to as "the black diaspora". Africa is Zion, and while a Rasta may or may not envisage going back there, it is on a vision of African culture that he tries to base his own. "Babylon" is his term for the surrounding white culture which, with more than a dash of stern puritanism, he rejects.

It is not then a movement greatly interested in integration: much more in the establishment of a parallel but apparently peaceable and self-respecting society. In the long run that might even be the more promising course.

Another close but declining society was the subject of Capital Radio's documentary feature, *The Final Generation* (Jan 10). Recorded in binaural stereo this was a portrait of London's vanishing lightermen and watermen. There was some marvellously vivid material, but also too much that was repetitive and difficult to hear. With better shaping and editing, this could have been a stunning programme.

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Television/Dennis Hackett

Stealing saga lacks lift

I've heard it said, and more than once in a desperate attempt at mitigation in court, that middle-aged men get up to some run things, and it may be that when the dramatic pendulum swings, we may even see something about them.

At the moment, however, the pendulum seems to be secured in one place by middle-aged women and their trials and tribulations. So it was last night when Carol Bunyan's *A Silly Little Habit* pricked on BBC2.

Daphne is married to an oilman, usually absent as oilmen tend to be. She lives in affluence and is visited occasionally by her two grown children. Neither seemed to me to be a sufficient antidote to loneliness in fact the daughter, a coiled career woman of the karate kind, would make solitude desirable.

On one of their visits mother is ill at ease for reasons other than her siblings' rivalry: she is appearing in court for shop-lifting and this is recorded in the local paper. She is desperate to keep this out of their hands. Why she didn't destroy it I don't know but, in the event, though her son wonders about the presence of a Claridge's spoon, the paper is unremarked.

But mother confesses all to a school friend she hasn't seen for yonks and yonks after the school friend, also beset by affluence, has told her that her own little impulse to do something naughty has been fulfilled by brushing her little Renault on a neighbour's Volvo, then wiping off the paint and concealing her own car for a fortnight.

She demands a return confession, gets more than she bargained for and can only react by giving her friend a name and address in Harley Street and extracting a promise not to shop-lift again. Despite this Daphne is last seen in a supermarket pocketing a tin of something or other — she prefers tins to other things.

I thought *A Silly Little Habit* rather a silly play. We don't have to scour our memories hard to think of tragedies arising from this sort of thing but they need a deeper probe than Carol Bunyan had to hand.

Despite this there were good performances from Margaret Tyack as the shop-lifter and Pauline Jameson as her bubbling friend and car-scraper. It was produced by Anne Head and directed by Sarah Pia Anderson.

Diary quiz

The answers to these questions from the week's news will appear in Monday's Diary.

1. Who failed to clear a legal fee?
2. What left a bad taste and caused 23 million lost working days last year?
3. Who criticized his own party?
4. And who criticized his own executive?
5. What may be stirring in the Forest?
6. Who declared pricey profits?
7. What took a right royal tumble?
8. Who said, "My passion is my country?"
9. What was said to be reacting to a non-event?
10. Who complained of having an "overdose of living in a drizzle"?



Some appalling puns in respect to our picture of Nureyev last week: "Bullet Russe," "Don Quixshot," "The swosome," "Point Tu," "Bulletomane," "Pas de dough" — you see what I mean. So the winner had to be the least awful punster: Mr Michael Claughton, from Ashford in Kent, for "The guidance kid".



Our usual bottle of Verve Clicquot for the wittiest caption to this photograph of Lord Grade, from yesterday's paper. Entries, on a postcard please, to "Point Tu," "Bulletomane," "Pas de dough" — you see what I mean. So the winner had to be the least awful punster: Mr Michael Claughton, from Ashford in Kent, for "The guidance kid".

Chess/Harry Golombek

The correspondence is closed

I have had a letter from Mr J. W. Harper in which he mentions three matters concerning changes in the practice and rules of the game. First, let me give a brief history of early chess which will help serve as an answer.

Chess is supposed to have been invented in the fifth century AD in north-west India; to have passed on to the Persian empire and then to have caught on throughout the Muslim world.

When played by the Persians and Arabs, the pieces did not move far and as a result chess was very slow. The Queen, now the most powerful piece, was then the weakest and could move only one square diagonally; the bishop could move only two squares diagonally. All in all chess must have been a most tedious game to play.

All this was changed when the game came to Europe in about the ninth century. It quickened up and by the end of the fifteenth century, when the en passant rule was introduced, chess had reached its modern mobility and has not changed for the past 500 years. From this it

might be argued that chess has reached a peak of excellence from which it should not lightly be changed.

Now for Mr Harper's first point. He asks why the celebrated matadors of the game don't play correspondence chess. The answer is simply that the game is best played over the board and that the great masters find they have the most pleasure playing man to man.

The next query concerns the fact of odds chess; the giving of odds at chess was popular in the eighteenth century. In fact the great Philidor seems to have played most of his games in this style and he was so outstanding that he had little difficulty beating his opponents at odds such as the giving of pawn and move. The practice of giving odds began to disappear in the nineteenth century as the general level of play rose, in the twentieth century it has practically disappeared.

The general level of play has risen so much that grandmasters cannot give masters odds successfully;

masters cannot give first class amateurs odds and hope to win, and so on down the line. In addition, odds-giving tends to produce an ugly and violent type of game. The natural subtlety of chess is thereby obscured.

Mr Harper's third question is this: "Why will Frank Morley's one contribution to chess never be accepted — or Capablanca's similar suggestion for that matter?" The answer to the second section of this question lies in the fact that Capablanca wished to change the rules after, and only after, he had lost the world title. As for Frank Morley's suggestion, that 12 more squares should be added to the chess board, history is littered with ideas for changing the game invented by those who are unable to play chess well. None of them ever catch on. Weaker players cannot become stronger by changing the nature or practice of the game. Although chess reached its perfect form some five centuries ago, its almost infinite variety has made it immune to change.

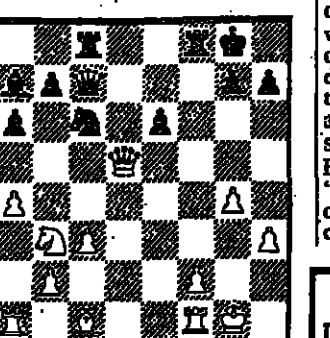
18-year-old Harry Kasparov demonstrated the ever-green freshness of the Alekhine type of combination with a fine win over a strong opponent at the Soviet championship at Frunze in December, 1981.

White: V. Cheshkovsky Black: H. Kasparov. Sicilian Defence.

1 P-K4 P-QB4
2 N-KB3 P-B3
3 P-Q4 N-DB3
4 N-P N-Q3
5 N-QB3 P-Q3
6 P-K3 N-B3
7 B-N2 B-G2
8 Q-O Q-A2

Waste of time; better seems development by either B-K3 or P-QN3 followed by B-N2.

This exchange leaves his Kingside dreadfully weak; preferable was 15.N-B2 to be followed by N-K3.



20 Q-K4
If 20.QxP ch, K-R1; 21.B-K3, B-N1; 22.P-KB4, KR-K1.

20 ... R-NP
21 R-N R-NP
22 Q-N2 B-N1
23 K-R1

Or 23.K-R1, Q-B6; 24.QxP, R-B1; 25.Q-N2, R-B3 ch; 26.K-R2, Q-Q3 ch; 27.Q-N3, R-B7 ch.

24 ... Q-K4
After any other move 24... R-KB1; and Black wins.

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Collectors' Diary/Geraldine Norman

Constables and detectives

There are innumerable different motives for collecting, but among the most usual are: visual/aesthetic pleasure, historical romanticism and historical/sociological curiosity. The importance of the last is often overlooked but many collectors are veritable Sherlock Holmeses in their fields, searching for clues, following up inspired guesses and contributing importantly to the clarification of muddled areas of art history.

For art history is by no means as well ordered as the little gold plaques on museum pictures would seem to imply. Attributions are often tentative and are often changed.

One of the most glorious muddles in British art is the penumbra of Constable "style" paintings that surround the genuine work of John Constable. It includes works by his family and friends, followers, imitators and out and out forgeries.

In 1896 Robert Leslie wrote: "from the quantity of works sold and exhibited under the name of Constable, I should not be surprised if the number of forgeries now already exceeded that of his genuine pictures". Many more have, no doubt, been manufactured since then.

A small exhibition at the Tate next month, entitled "Looking for Constable", will highlight the detective work of two Constable scholars, Leslie Parris and Ian Fleming-Williams. The exhibition is devoted to paintings, drawings, prints and photographs by John Constable's son Lionel. Most of the paintings have long masqueraded under an attribution to his father.

They have been sorted out by painstaking piecing together of evidence. Apart from a small group of

paintings that remained properly attributed, in the family collection there have been two principal sources of identification: a sketch book now in East Berlin from which Lionel worked up several of the newly attributed oil paintings, and a group of photographs which he took and on which he also based pictures.

The exhibition will provide the first opportunity since Lionel's own lifetime to see a substantial body of his work together, to evaluate and compare. It should provide an important source of new clues and a basis for more detective work. Potential sleuths should alert here.

What about Alfred, for example? Alfred (1826-53) and Lionel (1828-1887) were the two youngest of John Constable's seven children. The copious correspondence between them (the majority of letters from Alfred to Lionel) demonstrates that they were both keen landscape painters, working from nature in a manner inspired by their father.



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Bridge/Jeremy Flint

Tricks and assets

"There's many a man walking the Embankment because he failed to draw trumps", says the old adage; "and even more who have exchanged riches for rags because they drew trumps too soon". One might reply. There are two prime reasons for electing to play in a trump contract, one is to maintain control, the

other to use the trump suit itself to manufacture extra tricks. Only in the former case is it correct to draw trumps immediately. More commonly, declarer will need to score a ruff in dummy, or rely on a cross ruff.

Rubber bridge. North-South game. Dealer North.

North-South were playing five-card majors, which explains North's immediate jump to four hearts. One of the advantages of the method is that you can go straight to the final contract without painting unnecessarily revealing pictures on the way.

Some players misplay this type of hand because they refuse to take proper stock of their assets. The choice lies between establishing one of the minor suits or playing on cross ruff lines. South wisely selected the cross ruff. He won the lead in his hand with the ♠K, cashed the ♠A and ruffed a diamond in dummy. He cashed dummy's ♠A and ♠K, and continued with a club, which he ruffed in hand. A second diamond ruff and a second club ruff left this end position. South having made eight tricks.

South played the ♠J, ruffed with West, and over-ruffed with dummy's ♠K. Despite his powerful trumps, East could not prevent South from making 10 tricks.

The next hand is an echo of the same theme. Rubber bridge. Game all. Dealer South.

South played the ♠J, ruffed with West, and over-ruffed with dummy's ♠K. Despite his powerful trumps, East could not prevent South from making 10 tricks.

(1) The fourth suit, forcing, asking South to describe his hand.

Lionel's but now given to Alfred. He must have used some sketches for paintings. His letters tell us where he was painting and when; if views could be matched with his travels...

A real collecting coup would be the discovery of an oil painting by Lionel dating from his visit to America in 1850. An American collector multiplies the value of any art work many times because American collectors are so rich and nationalistic.

Lionel arrived in New York on October 1, 1850, according to surviving letters. He planned to travel via Albany and Buffalo to Chicago. He mentions visiting Milwaukee and taking in the Niagara Falls on his way back to New York — from where he sailed for England on November 16.

The exhibition includes a pencil sketch of the Niagara Falls and another of boats inscribed "milwaukee".

Lionel will be revealed as a printmaker by the Tate exhibition. This is an area at present largely unsearched. These mezzotints will be exhibited. What more did he do? All three were previously considered to be mezzotints by David Lucas after John Constable.

Parris and Fleming-Williams again picked up their clue from the Lionel sketch book in East Berlin. Lucas worked closely with John Constable in preparing mezzotints after his paintings. It had hitherto been assumed that all Constablean mezzotints of this kind were the product of their collaboration. But one mezzotint of a "landscape with church tower" bought with a larger group by the Leggat family in the early years of this century, corresponds with one of the Berlin sketches in reverse.

This print indicates that Lionel may have been taught the mezzotint technique by Lucas when the latter was working on his father's paintings.

More evidence has come to light to support this. That Lionel experimented with printmaking is established by a letter from his brother Charles of 1846 referring to a "little print" of Lionel's which he found "rather grand".

A more unconventional line of enquiry lies in the analysis of fingerprints. One photograph believed to have been taken and developed by Lionel bears a full and perfectly delineated print.

Can any painting be found in which he or Alfred inadvertently impressed a finger on the wet pigment?

One painting in the exhibition, a "View of Kent", bears some smudged finger prints but it is not yet established whether anything can be deduced from them.

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Travel/Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

Long haul holidays/John Carter

A little goes a long way



In terms of value for money, those who sell inclusive holidays to faraway destinations have always had the edge on any competitor confined to Europe. For although prices in the European brochures may be much lower, the money spent on holidays further afield buys a great deal more. Not just more miles by air — although long distance flying is cheap compared with the high costs in Europe and, in real terms, much cheaper than it was in recent years — but in a higher quality of accommodation and a more rewarding holiday "experience".

"Hotels which would be regarded as de luxe in any European resort are thought of as no more than standard quality in, say, the Far East or the Caribbean," one sales director commented when he spoke about 1982 prospects a few days ago. "We think — and I speak of most long haul operators, not just my own company — that we shall do well in 1982 because we do offer very good value for money".

Not that the long haul operators are complacently waiting for bookings to come. In fact, many of them are offering incentives to encourage early bookings. On many departures and to many destinations, Kuoni offers a three-week holiday for the price of two weeks, or two weeks for the price of one, and discounts of up to £100 on particular departure dates. Rankin Kuhn offers superior accommodation at standard prices to hotels in Barbados, Jamaica, Malaysia, Thailand and Tobago to clients who book before the end of February, as well as free extra weeks at a selection of hotels.

Wings reckons that the average price increase in its Faraway Holidays programme is just 3.6 per cent and that many holidays in the Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Kenya and Florida are actually cheaper than in 1981. The average fare for two weeks in the Seychelles being £67 down.

Speedbird, Thomas Cook and Bales are similarly stressing the value for money of their long distance holidays, with Thomas Cook's holiday to Hawaii starting at £399, and the clear message for anyone planning a 1982 holiday across the Atlantic is to shop around the

pace having to make any surcharges in the foreseeable future.

As far as specific areas are concerned, 1982 will be an interesting year for tourism to the United States. The total number of people going there from Britain is now around one and a quarter million — almost as many as go to Italy or Greece — but this figure includes business travellers and those who are visiting friends and relatives. "Package deal" customers totalled some 270,000 in 1981, and that figure is not expected to increase very much this year, if at all, although tour companies are making great efforts to the fact that once you get to America the costs of hotel and motel rooms, petrol, car hire and meals are well below those in many European holiday countries, to say nothing of costs in Britain.

Speedbird, Laker and Thomas Cook are others who have issued special brochures for their American holidays, and it seems as though a particular emphasis is being given in 1982 to the Hawaiian Islands. Listing many holidays that are actually cheaper than their 1981 equivalents, Speedbird points out that £525 will buy two weeks in Hawaii, compared with the single week that could be had for £515 last year.

Knowing that many travellers wish to combine their holidays with a visit to friends and relatives, Thomas Cook promises that extensions are available on all USA and Canada holidays. Thomas Cook has a nine-day holiday to Hawaii starting at £399, and the clear message for anyone planning a 1982 holiday across the Atlantic is to shop around the

photographic tour led by Patrick Lichfield to the Yangtze Gorges and Kwailin, and Nepal, is offered by Serenissima at £2,145 for 21 days. The Bales brochure is another offering a selection of China tours — 19 days from £1,235 of a 15-day trip incorporating time in Hong-kong and Canton from £529.

India, too, is being strongly promoted with a number of companies competing for a share of the available traffic. Cox and Kings have a first class reputation — based on their very long experience of doing business to and within India — but the brochures of companies such as Thomas Cook, Speedbird and Kuoni, are also worth perusing. Kuoni, for example, offers holidays that combine India and Nepal, one of which I sampled at the end of last year and found extremely interesting. As the Kuoni brochure puts it: "... definitely for the traveller with a spirit of adventure..." And strong knees.

Such a spirit of adventure is present on holidays to East Africa, when they incorporate an expedition into the Game Parks, and it is interesting to see how quickly Zimbabwe has appeared in the brochures. Kuoni offers a 17-day holiday there from £865, or 17 days combining Zimbabwe with South Africa from £1,124. Kenya continues to attract a lot of first time "long haul" clients and appears in some general tour company brochures as well as those of the established long haul specialists.

Indeed, an interesting aspect of 1982 is the way that companies like Enterprise, Thomson, Horizon, Exchange Travel and Ellerman are pushing into the long haul market and giving established companies a run for their money. It is worth looking at their deals, for their prices are a little sharper than Exchange Travel, for instance, has some excellent deals to Malaysia, Thailand, Hongkong and Singapore, although these have to be weighed against the fact that the "established" competition quite often have better handling agents and, of course, more experience in the destinations.

In terms of value for money, the long haul brochures contain some excellent bargains and a well informed travel agent will be able to help you make comparisons between them.

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He ruffs a heart with the ♠8, and then ruffs a diamond with the ♠K. He ruffs a heart with the ♠A. The combination of declarer's ♠10 and dummy's ♠9 are sufficient to guarantee the two tricks that he requires. South's play had to be precise to justify his partner's optimistic bidding.

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Burma/Richard Vines
The road to Mandalay

potholed, and in the evenings
can be seen running
along broken pavements.

At the Strand Hotel, once
the country's grandest but
now a Burmese Fawley
Towers, service is so chaotic
that the length of time one
must wait for a taxi is
proportional to its price. An ice-
cream is quickest at 15
minutes, but will never arrive
if your main dish is served
after 9pm, when the cook
goes home.

Mandalay is best reached
by a daily train, which leaves
at 10.15 and after a 12-hour
field 12-hour ride through
fields of sugar-cane, chillies,
bananas and rice. At each
station dozens of food-sellers
besiege carriage windows
while others jump on board.
You will see a lot of brown
beetle-like insects and small
birds on sticks to chicken
miryanis, wrapped in banana
leaves, which you eat with
your hands as the train pulls
away and the last of the
vegetables disappear.

Such a journey is far more
interesting than flying,
which is just as well because
the country's airline makes it
impossible to see the stupendous
flight that most visitors are
unwilling to risk the con-
siderable time involved in
trying to book a seat.

From Mandalay
are little more than dusty
tracks used by horsecarts,
trishaws and bicycles. There
are a few motor cars and, like
Rangoon, it is a place of
great character and old-
fashioned charm.

A walk at dawn up the
1,729 steps to the top of
Mandalay Hill gives a won-
derful view of the surround-
ing countryside and temples,
including the Kuthodaw
Pagoda, where the entire

Village women besiege the Mandalay ferry selling fruit, blankets, betelnut and cheroots.

Buddhist canon is inscribed on 729 marble slabs, each sheltered from the fierce sun by a small temple.

Tourist information is not issued by the Burmese Embassy in London and not much is available in Burma. Anyone thinking of going to Burma must buy a *Burma — A Travel Survival Kit* by Tony Wheeler (*Lonely Planet*) which is aimed at the shoe-leather traveller, but contains much invaluable information. The best time to go is November to February, when it is dry and the temperature does not rise much above the eighties.

Visas can only be obtained if one has booked a flight in and out of the country. I bought a bucket shop ticket to Bangkok for £335 and a travel agent got my visa and booked me on a return flight to Rangoon for less than £70.

If all things cowboy and Indian are a personal turn-on, then Arizona is irresistible; it can be dude ranch, steak cook-outs, Tombstone's OK Corral and Geronimo country all the way. Not to mention Old West scenery spectaculars like the Apache Trail or Monument Valley (backdrop for a legion horse operas from *Stagecoach* onwards) and the deserts where the candelabra and organ pipe cactuses grow near the border with Mexico.

Unless heartily casual, friendly Western ways are a positive turn-off (certainly not for my money), there is a lot of holiday value in Arizona, including some unexpected contrasts.

Phoenix, state capital and natural gateway for transatlantic air travellers, has a disappointing centre of little character. But there is lush country club living in suburbs in the surrounding hills with — in the downtown too — more wide-ranging cuisines available in the restaurants than just T-bone steaks.

Phoenix has a sprinkling of personalities such as Barry Goldwater (whose store chain empire started there) and Buster Crabbe, the first Flash Gordon, living out at Scottsdale. Orson Welles has an occasional residence not far from town but has made few appearances there of late.

In February, day temperatures in Phoenix are in the high sixties and in March they go to the mid-seventies. But two hours drive away are mountains of 7,000 feet or so where the skiing is usually good although by no means

Arizona/Derek Harris

up to the standards of say
Utah.

In the summer a desert tank can be collected in Phoenix in the morning followed by a stroll in cool pinewoods in the afternoon up in the mountains. The thermometer climbs above 100 degrees Fahrenheit in July and August but it's tolerable, dry

But hire a car in Phoenix. That puts Tucson, Tombstone and the Apache country around Willcox and Fort Bowie within three to five hours' driving time. Tombstone is for Westerns buffs, with its Earp and Clanton connections (it was their feud that wound up bloodily at the OK Corral). The Boot Hill graveyard is still there. Most Sundays sees enacted shoot-outs and similar nostalgic frolics.

Outside Tucson there is a recreation of the town in its frontier days, built in 1939 by Columbia Pictures as a film set and much used since by film makers.

This part of Arizona offers the biggest variety of ranching holidays. An Arizona Guest Ranches brochure is produced by the Arizona Office of Tourism. Address: 3507 N. Central Avenue, Suite 506, Phoenix AZ 85012.

An example of costs comes from Rex Ranch at Agua Fria, 33 miles south of Tucson, and taking only 30 guests at a time. Double room with bath, including meals and ranching activities plus travel to and from Tucson airport, is \$87 weekly for two people. Children (three to 12) rate \$245 sleeping in with adults. The Rex's Lee Franklin (a sturdy horsewoman) has a London

A car trip around the southern spread of Arizona could be completed with a westward loop to see Monument Valley with its extraordinarily striking rock formations rising from the desert floor.

But striking north from Phoenix, with the most likely goal the Grand Canyon, means a choice. The Canyon south rim is 220 miles from Phoenix and one way is five hours of driving through Sedona (an arts and music

Go there: a mile deep and about 18 miles wide at the point, near Grand Canyon village, the work of wind and weather and the deep-cutting Colorado river, it is riveting even to fly through. Down by mile is more exciting. All

tours available from Phoenix (from about \$80) are the alternative to the road and mean an hour's flight across volcanic country, within sight of the myriad-coloured

Then the light aircraft braves the air currents below the rim to reveal the multi-angled tangle of clefts, cliffs and scree shoots descending dramatically to a river spike.

with rapid. A useful conversation operator for the Arizona visitor from Britain: Phoenix was named by an Englishman, Darrell Duppa, scholar and adventurer, who made it there in the mid-1800s. Gaz- ing at long-abandoned Indian ruins there he had in mind the Egyptian phoenix and rightly saw a big city rising from the banks of the Salt River. The desert there is at least more varied than much of Egypt's.

Iceland features in this week's discounts, though since the holiday is neither a winter sports nor a winter sunshine break, it does not appear in the chart. Reykjavik is the destination and Twickenham Travel has departures available on February 6, 13, 20 and 27. The cost of the seven night bed and breakfast holiday is now £199, a £21 discount on the brochure price.

Intasun is offering new budget holidays of seven, 10, 11 and 14 nights to Majorca, Costa Blanca, Costa del Sol and Malta at all inclusive prices starting from £69. Savings on current brochure prices range from £3 to £10, though not every hotel features in the current winter brochure. These discounts are available for only a few January departure dates. The holiday maker selects the resort and standard of accommodation and Intasun allocates the hotel.

On spring and early summer holidays in Malta, Thomson is offering free holidays for children aged between two and 11 at the Hotel Mellicha Bay. One child may travel free with every full fare paying adult. Where two children travel with two adults the children will have a separate room. The offer is open from 20 April to 24 June and the price of one week, half board, starts at £210.

Looking forward to summer, Thomson has a range of discounts of up to £70 per person and a free car on villa and apartment holidays in Malta from May 2 to 29 July. To qualify for the reductions and car holiday makers select their departure date and airport, and specify the size of accommodation required. Apartments for two to nine people are available and all will be allocated to each apartment. Prices of from £117 for one week per person in May are guaranteed against surcharges. S.C.P.

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Avoriaz, France	7 1/b	Supertravel	£159/169	£35	Jan 23 & 30
St. Anton, Austria	7 1/b	Supertravel	£154/164	£35	Jan 24 & 31
Courchevel, France	7 1/b	Supertravel	£189/199	£35	Jan 30
Chassrs, Italy	7/14 h/b	Global	£104/150	£30	Jan30 & Feb 6
Avoriaz	7/14 n/b	Global	£103/199	£20	Jan 31 & Feb 7
Livigno, Italy	7/14 h/b	Inghams	£151/185	£22	Most Sats Jan & Mar, Manchester
Santa Caterina, Italy	7/14 1/b	Swans	£130/180	£22	Most Sats Jan & Mar, Manchester
Aprica, Italy	7/14 1/b	Swans	£138/230	£22	Most Sats Jan & Mar, Manchester
Caspoggio, Italy	7/14 1/b	Swans	£108/163	£22	Most Sats Jan & Mar, Manchester
Courcheval	7/14 1/b	Holiday Villas	£107/142	£12/15	Jan 23
WINTER SUN Eilat, Israel	21 b/b	Twickenham Travel	£369/433	£59/91	Jan 24 & 31. Room only for third wk.
Red Sea flotilla	7s/c	Twickenham Travel	£199	£50	Jan 24 & 31
Tenerife	7/14h/b	Global	£139/199	£45	Jan 26
Malta	7/14h/b	Portland*	£79/99	£61/80	Jan 22, Luton
Tunisia	7/14 1/b	Portland	£89/109	£48/57	Jan 22, Luton
Majorca	7 1/b	Portland	£79	£35	Jan 23
Malta	7/14h/b	Portland	£79/99	£62/81	Jan 23
Beridom	7 h/b	Tjæreborg*	£108	£24	Feb 6
Malta	14 n/b	Tjæreborg	£98	£82	Jan 30
Tenerife	7 h/b	Tjæreborg	£188	£23	Jan 29, Manchester
Lanzarote	7 h/b	Thomas Cook	£213	£20	Jan 28
Faro	7 h/b	Thomas Cook	£115	£15	Jan 24, Manchester
Malaga	7 h/b	Thomas Cook	£95	£15	Jan 31

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Personal investment pages 16 & 17

Business News

THE TIMES SATURDAY JANUARY 16 1982

Royal Bank bids report page 18

New hope after 12% rate of inflation

By Frances Williams

The annual rate of inflation stood last month after four consecutive increases, boosting Government hopes that it will shortly resume a downward course.

The Retail Prices Index rose by 12 per cent in the 12 months to December, the same as November, to stand at 306.8 (January 1974=100). This compares with the 19m low of 10.9 per cent touched in July.

Prices in December rose by 0.6 per cent, rather less than many analysts were expecting. A third of the rise was the result of higher food prices, while the jump in the mortgage rate to 15 per cent for most remaining building society borrowers contributed a further third. The rest was due to the increase in the television licence fee from £34 to £46 for a colour set, and higher gas prices and rail fares.

Offsetting these rises was a small reduction in petrol prices and the refund on electricity bills, together with a slight fall in the prices of clothing and footwear and household durable goods such as furniture.

Prices charged by state industries, which rose by 30 per cent during 1980 and prevented a stunning block preventing achievement of single figure inflation, are now rising roughly in line with prices in the rest of the economy.

Over the year to December 1981 nationalized industry prices rose by 11.1 per cent. Economists in the Treasury are now hopeful that the inflation rate will stabilise at about its present level before falling gently later this year. The official forecast published by the Chancellor's economic statement last month predicted that inflation would ease to 10 per cent by the end of the year.

But this forecast depends crucially on continuing pay moderation and the pound remaining close to its present level.

Though the sharp fall in the pound during 1981 seems to have had less impact on inflation than was at first feared, partly because importers preferred to reduce their comfortable profit margins rather than put up prices, any further drop could put unwelcome upward pressure on prices.

In addition, prices at home may be vulnerable to attempts by traders to improve their profit margins as output slowly picks up. January's inflation figures will be affected by a 14p increase in the cost of a pint of milk, equivalent to 1/4 of a percentage point on the retail price index, and higher prices for beef, gas, and telephones. Some councils' supplementary rate demands will also be included, offset by the removal of the GLC's supplementary rate following the House of Lords decision on London transport fares.

Britain's annual inflation rate remains higher than the average for industrialized countries of 10.1 per cent.

Table, page 17

ACC takeover confused by Heron Bid

By Philip Robinson and Paul Maidment

Mr Robert Holmes a Court's £36m takeover bid for Associated Communications Corporation was thrown into confusion last night as his agreement to buy Lord Grade's ACC shares became the subject of legal action, and Mr Gerald Ronson, chairman of Heron Corporation, said he was pressing ahead with a £42.5m counter bid.

Mr Ronson is said to have tried to make an offer last Monday but finally put one on the table at 2am on Wednesday.

A statement from ACC, now headed by Mr Holmes a Court, last night said the Heron offer had been rejected.

In his legal action Mr Jack Gill, the dismissed ACC managing director, has lodged a writ with the High Court seeking to restrain Lord Grade and four other ACC directors from selling their shares before a vote is taken on his £560,000 golden handshake payment.

A special shareholders meeting to consider this resolution was adjourned again yesterday, pending court action by the Post Office pension fund to stop the payout.

Mr Gill is also seeking an

order restraining Mr Holmes a Court from becoming the legal owner of any shares sold to him by five ACC directors.

Named in the writ are Lord Grade, Isaac Louis Benjamin, Norman Richard Collins, Louis Sydney Michael, Sir Leo Pliatsky and Mr Holmes a Court.

In addition Mr Gill is seeking an order to make the five ACC directors whom he claims signed a memo on September 1, 1981 (the day he suddenly left the group) and the four ACC directors who he also claims signed a memo on November 30, abide by the agreement said to be contained in those memos, to vote in favour of his £560,000 compensation payment.

ACC's advisors confirmed last night that Lord Grade's £7.16 per cent voting and 0.5 per cent non-voting shares had been sold to Mr Holmes a Court's Bell Group through which he is making the bid.

Heron said last night it remains seriously interested in pursuing its bid and is actively considering its position, paying particular attention to the implications of the share transactions detailed in Mr Holmes a Court's formal bid statement. These included the sale of Lord Grade's shares and the promises of other directors to accept his offer with their combined 36 per cent of the voting shares.

Meanwhile, there were indications that other rival offers were likely to emerge. The Independent Broadcasting Authority, which has to sanction shares sales in ACC because of its 51 per cent holding in Central Independent Television, made it clear that the worth of ACC should be calculated without the profit contribution of the East-West Midlands franchise holder.

It is expected that a large slice of ACC's 51 per cent holding, on which votes are frozen as part of the Holmes a Court bid, will be sold.

United Biscuits takes over Terrys of York

By Peter Wainwright

Joseph Terry of York, the confectioners is once again changing hands. Colgate Palmolive which bought the company from Trusthouse Forte in 1977 in a deal said to have been worth about £10m, is going to United Biscuits for £24.5m cash.

United valued by the stock market at £348m is buying a group with a turnover (in the year to last September) of £42m, and with pretax profits of £2.7m. The book value of its assets is £20.5m.

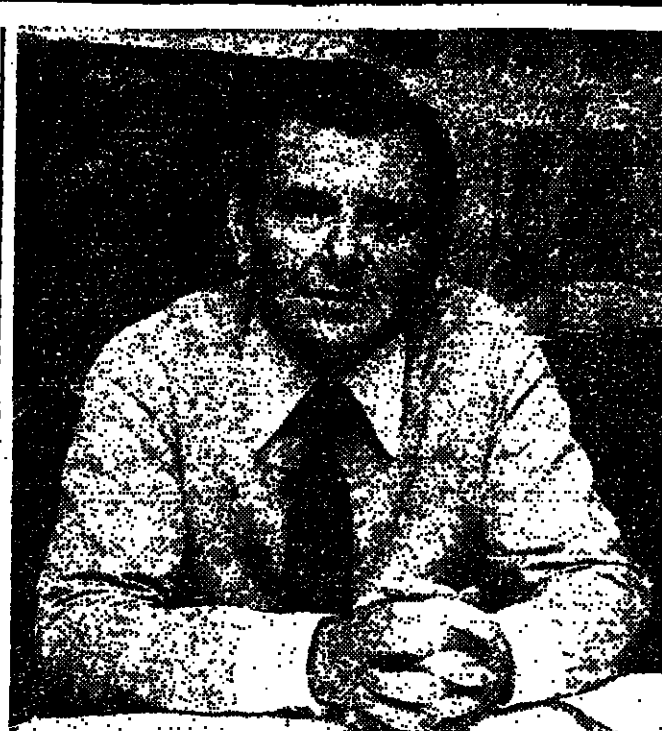
Terry's is one of Britain's quality chocolate makers, but its market share is however only about 4 per cent. Colgate, which at one time diversified into sporting goods lavished money on Terry's but is now pulling in its horns.

United get a company

which takes it at a stroke into the confectionery field. It has so far been on the fringe with Bandit chocolate biscuits, and it is a natural step to go into confectionery with an established distribution network Terry's salesforce will now handle United's biscuits.

For United Biscuits, however it is almost bound to mean a dilution of earnings in the first year of acquisition, because United's cash could earn more in interest than it is getting from Terry in profits.

United has seen its own profits soar from £6m to nearly £48m in 10 years, and in the six months to mid July last they increased 50 per cent. Profits this year will probably be more than £60m.



Ronson: never gone entirely public

Ronson's hat again in the City ring

By Margaret Pagan

Mr Gerald Ronson, the Heron Group chief now in the ACC fray has emerged as one of the shrewdest and richest survivors of the property boom when he impressed his style through his extrovert character, love for fast cars and frenetic work schedules leaving the office before 7 pm to socialize, he once said, was a sacrifice.

He used to drive in his Lamborghini to the garage forecourt to supervise personally the pump chain he launched in 1965.

All his garages were in key sites within 35 miles of London as part of a policy of buying high property value sites. All were within his personal reach. Soon he was regarded as a businessman who upstaged business rules, turning Heron into one of Britain's largest private empires. He conducts business in a highly unconventional, but always centralized way.

His business interests have always been followed with almost indecent haste and he has been keen to define his company as one of property in the public eye. Last Wednesday Ronson again threw his business into the ring when he said he had £100m to spend on buying a quoted United Kingdom company sometime this year.

By 11 pm that night he is believed to have turned up at the doors of Associated Communications Corporation offering himself before the board as the new owner of the group until then led by Lord Grade.

Earlier that day Ronson, 42, had denied any intention or interest to buy into the media world.

If I wanted prestige projects I would certainly want a company in the media and have no desire for that sort of publicity. Heron's acquisition will be an area closely related to Heron's present interests.

Mr Ronson, who has described himself as a capitalist with a social conscience, added: "I consider the Royal Society of Medicine development project we

are now working on to be one of worth and prestige."

But he did take part in an abortive consortium bid for Channel 4's breakfast television last year which, he says, came second in the rounds.

A close colleague said last night: "He is an autocrat and once he has got the hunch he follows it. But he has been known to spit it out at the last minute if he feels that it is not right."

Mr Ronson commands a vast spread of interests with an investment property portfolio valued at £125m and total property assets in excess of £140m which are scattered through Western Europe's leading cities.

In Paris he owns a 35 per cent interest in the highly valuable old Figaro building, valued in 1978 at £40m. Planning permission has just been obtained for a £25m development in Barcelona and in United Kingdom Heron has interests in many large cities and is working on 15 different projects.

Heron is also one of the country's largest independent petrol chains. Motor distribution is put through the Heron Motor Group and yesterday announced it had turned back to profits after a period of difficult trading.

With 5,000 employees in the United Kingdom, Heron also controls the Suzuki franchise, owns Ingersoll, the watch makers, and the National Insurance and Guarantee Corporation. Late last year Heron sold its Esaygas company, Cater Cars, the competitor, for an undisclosed sum.

Mr Ronson has never had any problem in raising money from the City. Last year he secured a £75m unsecured loan from Barclays Bank, a £50m unsecured loan in December and has around £20m cash on deposit.

Pressure on Japan hardens as talks open

From Bailey Morris, Key Biscayne, Florida, Jan 15.

Leaders of the main Western trading nations struggled through bad weather to arrive in Florida today for talks described as crucial to the world trading system's future.

This is the first time since last summer's Ottawa economic summit that ministers from Europe, the United States, Japan and Canada have met to discuss growing trade differences.

Despite assurances to the contrary, it appears certain that Japan's rising trade surplus with the rest of the world will dominate the sensitive topic of controlling trade in high technology goods, the subject of Nato talks in Brussels next week, will also be discussed.

The United States now estimates that Japan's surplus will jump \$5,000m (£2,688m) this year to \$25,000m.

This is just one of several problems clouding the world trade picture. As Mr William Brock, the American trade representative, said in his opening speech: "The world now faces a triple threat of inflation, unemployment, and high interest rates which strain political structures."

Mr Brock added that even though delegates are not in Florida to negotiate he hoped the talks would result in a new degree of cooperation.

Both the Europeans and the Americans have been pressing the Japanese to change their trade policies. This is the message they will put forcefully in private sessions.

So far, the Japanese response has been to urge both Europe and the United States to avoid protectionist policies. They say the West's problems are not Japan's fault, but that of outdated, uncompetitive industries.

In Tokyo, before leaving for the conference, Mr Shintaro Abe, Japan's Minister of International Trade, said he could not believe the West would restrain Japanese exports.

Still, even in Japan, there is considerable pressure on the Government to change its policies, a member of the Japanese delegation said.

He added that last month, for example, Mr Tasbio Komoto, a prominent Cabinet member, had said Japan's present account surplus is a threat to the world to the brink of war.

He warned businessmen that if Japan does not ease these pressures it must bear part of the blame for a potentially fatal protectionist actions in Europe and the United States.

This sentiment was echoed privately by members of the European and American delegations before the first private session. One American said Congress, reacting to mounting unemployment and a continuing flood of Japanese cars and electronics exports, is becoming increasingly hostile.

He added: "We have at least two anti-Japanese Bills pending in Congress and unless something positive happens, I don't think we can hold all of them back."

Royal Bank 'will go on expanding despite bid veto'

By Our Financial Staff

There was disappointment all round, except at the Bank of England, at the Monopolies Commission's majority decision to veto the £500m rival bids for Royal Bank of Scotland yesterday.

Mr John Burke, Royal Bank's chief executive, said he was disappointed that the merger with Standard Chartered had been disallowed and increased competition. Standard Chartered would continue its expansion strategy and was examining other options.

On the stock market, jobbers stopped making a price in Royal Bank shares for a few minutes after publication of the report. When dealings re-started, Royal Bank shares were marked down a little further, closing 16p lower on the day at 125p. A week ago, before the report was leaked, they stood at 193p, falling 50p alone last Monday.

Hongkong and Shanghai ended the day 4p better at 139p and Standard Chartered closed up 5p at 125p. The Commission conducted its investigation on a case-by-case basis, but there would be pleasure at the Bank of England because the report added weight to its view that control of the Royal Bank by Hongkong and Shanghai may have run counter to the national interest as far as banking regulation was concerned.

However, Mr Burke would not comment on suggestions that Royal Bank has advanced plans to buy a medium-sized bank in the United States.

Mr Michael Sandberg, chairman of Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, source of the other bid, said: "It remains our belief that by linking with Royal Bank we could have made a major contribution to increasing competition in British banking."

DIARY OF EVENTS

1980: Royal Bank Group decides to seek a partner with a strong overseas presence, following takeover approaches from largest shareholder Lloyds Bank with 16.4 per cent.

March 17, 1981: Standard Chartered makes agreed £320m offer for Royal with the approval of the Bank of England. Lloyds Bank swiftly launches bid for Lloyds & Scottish gaining control over the bank's purchases and later agrees to back Royal Bank takeover in return for being able to buy Royal's 39.3 per cent stake in the finance house.

April 7: Hongkong and Shanghai launches its £500m counterbid for Royal following several meetings with the Bank of England. According to Hongkong and Shanghai it was never forbidden to bid; according to Bank of England, its disapproval was made clear.

April 23: Standard Chartered returns with a new agreed offer which matches the Hongkong and Shanghai bid.

May 1: Following pressure from both inside and outside Parliament and increasing signs of the Bank of England's opposition to the Hongkong and Shanghai bid.

State aid for lame-duck industries should be subject to tough criteria, while industry must take the initiative to promote "sunrise industries". Sir Terence Beckett, director general of the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday.

In a keynote speech on industrial policy the Stockton lecture at the London Business School - Sir Terence said: "The restructuring of British industry will be carried out on a much sounder basis if it is done at company level than if we wait for some grand government plan."

But there were areas where the Government could aid casualties, such as core industries, to give them breathing space for reequipping and reorganisation. There should be a time-limit for aid, he said.

De Lorean moves to secure £36m loan

By Rupert Morris and Christopher Thomas

De Lorean car company representatives will meet the Export Credits Guarantee Department on Monday to discuss its request for guarantees on an immediate loan of £26m followed by a further £10m in March.

The company which has won Government grants of £80m for the building of its Belfast factory and which employs 2,500 people, was non-committal about the nature of the meeting.

The department is understood to be worried about De Lorean's financial position and is anxious that a third party to invest money should be found. So far, the company has been unsuccessful in its efforts to find a backer.

Yesterday De Lorean announced that it was returning to a five-day week next week, having been reduced to three days working for this week.

The reason for this shortened working week are far from clear. The company blamed a shortage of spare parts because of the Sealink strike hitting the supply route from Stranraer, but hinted that there were other reasons such as a decline in American demand for the cars, and the failure to secure export credit guarantees.

Mr John De Lorean, said in New York yesterday that he would travel to Northern Ireland on Monday night or Tuesday morning. Mr Don

OFT probes Cook deal

The Office of Fair Trading is investigating Thomas Cook's proposed takeover of Rankin Kuhn, the travel agency subsidiary of British Petroleum, to decide whether there should be a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The deal is believed to be worth £1.5m with Rankin Kuhn a subsidiary of British Petroleum, to decide whether there should be a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

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BUSINESS BRIEFING

Caledonian wins £2.5m aero-engine contract

Caledonian Aviation Group, parent of the British Caledonian airline, signed a £2.5m export contract yesterday which is seen as a breakthrough for the company.

Under a five-year exclusive contract, Caledonian Automotive, the group's engineering division, will overhaul and maintain turbofan engines for the Canadian airline, Wardair. The maintenance will be carried out at Caledonian's engineering plant at Prestwick, in Ayrshire.

Mr Adam Thomson, Caledonian Automotive chairman, said: "This contract marks a major step forward in the development of Caledonian Automotive and firmly establishes Prestwick as a major centre of advanced technology power plant engineering."

Further expansion is scheduled for 1984 when the plant will maintain the three Airbus A310 aircraft due to be delivered to British Caledonian. The company hopes to provide a similar support service for Wardair's fleet of A310s when they go into service.

British Telecom has placed an order worth nearly £2m with Rediffusion Radio Systems for the supply of paging equipment.

The design of the equipment will be based on the one developed by Nippon Electric Company of Japan and will be manufactured at Rediffusion's Wandsworth factory.

Finland order

Pye TVT has won a contract worth more than £750,000 from the Finnish National Broadcasting Company for the supply of television transmitters.

£2m order for Rediffusion

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Corby plant go-ahead

BAT, the tobacco manufacturer, has secured planning permission for a £22m tobacco processing plant at Corby, Northamptonshire.

The plant, due for completion in the second half of next year, will initially create 100 jobs.

It will supply processed tobacco for BAT's cigarette factories.

Investment in Yugoslavia fell by 8 per cent in 1981 from 1980 levels, and the number of investment projects by 12 per cent, according to the national news agency Tanjug.

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Stock Markets

FT Index 531.6 up 4.4
FT GBs 62.37 up 0.13
FT All Share 308.22 up 1.65
Bargains 14,886

Sterling

\$1.8695 up 55 pts
Index 50.6 up 0.5

Dollar

Index 109.0 down 0.3
DM 2.3122 up 0.25

Gold

\$376.50 up 50 cents

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3 mth Euro 14 1/4-14 1/2
6 mth Euro 15 1/4-15 1/2

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Control Secs 5p to 65p
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Glasco 12p to 454p
Leslie 13p to 117p
Manson Fin 6p to 58p
Seatrut 65p to 427p
Streeters 2p to 22p
UBM Group 5p to 57p
Venterspost 25p to 387p

Falls

Anstrad 10p to 200p
BCC 5p to 146p
Copper Niell 2p to 58p
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First Castle 4p to 84p
Geevor Tin 5p to 135p
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Racal 5p to 385p
Rea Bros 10p to 125p
R. Bank S'land 15p to 121p
Wigfil H 15p to 121p

Italy faces 3m jobless

Italy's unemployment will rise from the present 2 million to 3 million by 1984, according to a three-year economic forecast by Confindustria, the confederation of private industry.

This year should see zero growth, and a drop in inflation from 18.7 per cent to 16.7 per cent, falling to 15.8 and 13.2 per cent in 1983 and 1984, the forecast said.

Slight recovery by sterling

Sterling recovered a little of the ground lost earlier this week in rather uncertain trading on international currency markets yesterday. It reached a high of nearly \$1.88 at one stage as the dollar fell back on profit-taking and publication of economic indicators showing United States still in the grip of recession. But the dollar rebounded later ahead of yesterday's United States money supply figures - expected to show a big jump - trimming sterling's gains.

The pound closed in London up just 55 points at \$1.8685. But it held on to gains against Continental currencies and its trade-weighted index improved 0.5 to 90.6.

Steel move

British Steel and other European producers are considering halting all shipments of steel to the United States to avoid the risk of penalties from anti-dumping charges American companies are expected to bring.

GM plans more lay-offs

General Motors said in Detroit yesterday that it planned temporary shutdowns over the coming weeks at many of its plants and will reduce production at three assembly plants, laying off 5,400 employees.

It has already laid off 126,000 hourly workers indefinitely.

Six telephone handset designs have been approved by the Department

Home Insurance

Where householders are uninsurable against theft

Standing upstairs in her bedroom, Yvonne Gilbert heard an intruder moving around in her kitchen. Fortunately there was a telephone extension in the bedroom and she was able to telephone the police. But when they turned up some 15 minutes later, the burglar had taken flight and gone.

This was the third break-in that Yvonne Gilbert and David Owen had suffered in the last five years. They share a flat in Tootyus Street in the Toxteth area of Liverpool, scene of last summer's riots.

The thieves took an almost new video recorder worth around £500 and although the break-in was worrying, the couple were insured with the Pru. This happened early in October last year, and the couple's claim was accepted but when the insurance cover came up for renewal on the 15th of last month, Yvonne and David were horrified to discover that the Pru was not prepared to give them any cover for theft — only for fire.

The Pru was the only company to take on insurance in this area and have found it impossible to get cover with any other company, said Miss Gilbert. "I went into the main office

in Liverpool to talk to the supervisor but she just said they were not prepared to offer theft cover."

"Most friends who live locally have policies with the Pru and some of them have had more break-ins than us. It will be interesting to see what the Pru decides to do when these come up for renewal."

A friend, Lynden Robson who lives nearby says, "I was forced out. I was burgled twice in three months and I have now moved from a ground floor flat to an attic flat". But my policy was renewed in December although I had to write to the company to remind them that it came up for renewal.

Yvonne Gilbert believes that Toxteth is one of several areas which are being "red-lined" by the insurance companies. "This is a no-go area now" she says.

The Pru disputes that "redlining" is operating in the area, and in fairness the Pru they have continued to insure homeowners in the area longer than most. "It was made perfectly clear that this was not a no-go area" commented Norman King of the Pru. "We look at individual risks as they arise."

The Pru sent their inspector to take a look at the

premises and he came to the conclusion that further break-ins were likely and the insured that the risk was virtually uninsurable", he said in his report. "The area can only be described as very poor from the theft and vandalism point of view."

However, he made no mention of the fact that all three break-ins had been via the back door, nor did he make any recommendations about security of this door. Though the couple have had it strengthened and wired glass put into the panels.

The Pru admits that theft cover is, on occasion, refused "in areas like Brixton, East London or anywhere where the risk of theft is higher". In some areas, whatever you do, someone will try to get in", says Mr King.

Over to the British Insurance Association, proud of its consumer complaints service. What should homeowners do who cannot get theft cover? In certain areas it is very difficult for property insurers (note — not homeowners), "if they find that an area is such that law and order is not properly maintained, it can get to the stage of becoming uninsurable. But the main purpose of



Yvonne Gilbert and David Owen at the back door of their flat in Toxteth

our complaints system is to look into areas of difference which arise between the policyholder and the company" commented a BIA spokesman.

Clearly no single insurance company can carry all the theft cover for such high risk areas. But perhaps what is needed is a system of referral, similar to that operated by the building

societies, whereby if a person cannot raise a loan from a building society they go to their local authority who will allocate a building society and refer the borrower back.

If homeowners who could not obtain cover were in a similar way among all the insurers, presumably the higher risk would be bearable. "We are

not in a position to do this" says the BIA.

"A pre-requisite of this would be that there are large numbers of people who have this problem", says the BIA.

In the meantime householders in high risk areas will either have to go uninsured, or like Yvonne Gilbert's friend — move out.

Lorna Bourke

Watch for gains in currencies

Currency gains are likely to be this year's big investment as the pound is expected to rise. Volatile interest rates and currency movements are once again being forecast by the economic pundits. As for the United Kingdom's major funds are concerned the yen and the Deutsche mark are the favoured targets.

In market jargon the description of trading conditions at the end of December was that "there are a lot of burnt fingers as far as the dollar is concerned". That was because interest rates in New York started to move up in December, rather unexpectedly, and are still rising. So, even though the yen, such as the Swiss Bank Corporation, are saying "do not sell the United States" cautious investors are wary of becoming involved in what may be a short-term rise.

In theory, British investors might think that they will be operating from a stable base in 1982. The Bank of England has made no secret of the fact that it has an exchange rate target. At the moment it is keeping the pound at a set average against the currencies of Britain's major trading partners. It keeps an index, the target on which is about 90 — the rate it has been for much of this year.

The problem is that as soon as foreign exchange markets start to disagree with a central bank, they will follow their view with cash. So if they think the central bank's

rate is too cheap, they will queue up to buy. Under this sort of pressure central banks usually have to change their target.

If the miners go on strike, then traders and investors all around the world will want to sell sterling.

Neither the Japanese nor the Germans want their currencies to rise. They can export more goods if these are priced in an undervalued currency, and thus look cheaper than those of their competitors. For that reason the top banking officials of both countries have been going around talking their currencies down.

Inflation in both countries is at a very low rate. In Japan it is likely to be 3% per cent at the end of this year and in Germany about 5 per cent. Both countries are also exporting vast amounts. These, and other factors, make them highly attractive to the big funds.

So, while they may not shoot up in the short term, if United States interest rates burst through the 20 per cent level again, both currencies are being recommended for capital gain over the course of the year.

Rates against the pound yesterday were 419.75 for the yen and 4.325 for the Deutsche mark. Interest rates on the pound are low — only about 3 per cent on the yen and 8-9 per cent on the Deutsche mark, depending on the size of the deposit.

Sally White

The Times-Money Programme Unit Trust Competition

Entries for The Times Money Programme Unit Trust Competition, launched last week in Family Finance and on BBC TV's Money Programme, have started to roll in. If you take it seriously, it will undoubtedly pay to leave your choice until the last few days as it will then be possible to see how the trusts have performed during the first three weeks of January.

But do not leave it too late since entries received after the closing date of January 30 will be disqualified.

We will be revealing our experts' — the unit trust advisers' — choices at the end of the month.

The uninitiated could do worse than back the unit trust managers' choices. Allied Hambro are tipping

Electrical and Industrial Trust, Japan, and Smaller Companies, from their own stable. Barclays Unicorn reckons its best performer will be the Greater Pacific Trust and Henderson has opted for its Capital Growth Fund. Britannia is putting its faith in its American Smaller Companies Fund, Britannia Far East, National High Income, and Britannia Smaller Companies, while Save and Prosper recommends its Exploration Fund, New Technology, and S.E. Asia Growth Fund.

Target has gone for its Income and Special Situations funds, while Tyndall prefers its Gilt Income, International Earnings and London Wall Extra Income Growth funds. Schroders likes the look of its Capital,

Australia, and General funds and M & G believes its American Recovery, Australian, Midland and General, Recovery and Magnum trusts are the ones to watch in 1982. Bravest of all is Hill Samuel which tips its Gilt and Fixed Interest Fund, and European Fund, along with the 1981 top performer Hill Samuel Far Eastern Trust. It will be something of a coup if Hill Samuel manages to pull it off two years running.

Prizes are £100 worth of unit trusts of your choice for the winner in each category with £50 and £25 for the runners up. There will be a prize-winners' lunch and the winners will be appearing on BBC's Money Programme to explain how they made their choice. Rules and entry form are below.

Readers of The Times have two more chances to compete — the entry form is printed today and next Saturday only. So far over 700 entries have been received.

Those who have entered so far have been almost exclusively in the "general" category. The professional advisers are obviously holding off until the last moment since they will have access to the performance figures for January and there is some evidence to suggest that those funds which perform well at the beginning of the year, tend to do well over the full twelve month period.

But the field is wide open. Talking to unit trust experts it is plain that there is little agreement on which funds to back.

We usually publish unit trust performance statistics on a sector basis — financial trusts, income trusts and so on. To help readers who are entering the unit trust competition make their choice, the figures this month will not be split into sectors, and it should be easier to see which trust is the best. The last time the entry form was published, the tables show the value on January 4, 1982, of £100 invested 12 months ago (column A) and two years ago (column B) net income. Figures supplied by Planned Savings Magazine, 150-152 Colindale Road, London N1 9RD.

Hill Samuel Far East	155.7	A-Hambro Equity Inc	115.6140.5
Arbuthnot	146.2203.2	Nelstar International	115.6
Arbuthnot	143.4216.8	Newstar Brit Cap	115.4146.2
S&P/Japan Growth	140.9187.6	Lloyds Small Cos & Ind	115.4
Henderson Smaller Cos	138.4168.7	A-Hambro Elec & Ind	115.4150.5
Henderson/Japan	138.3197.6	Pearl Trust	115.2141.1
Gartmore Japan	137.2	Discretionary	115.1146.9
Target Pacific	137.0193.6	Hill Samuel/Inc	115.1133.7
Midland Drayton Japan	134.8217.3	S&P/Invest Bond	115.1140.5
Chiefman Far Eastern	134.8193.0	General	115.0139.8
G.T. Japan & General	133.1179.7	Tower Inc & Growth	114.9138.8
Mercury General	131.7175.4	Britannia Inc & Growth	114.9128.1
Bishopsgate Internat	131.0768.9	Fidelity Amer Sp Sits	114.9
Henderson Sm Co	128.2174.5	Equity & Law Fund	114.8197.1
Nat West Smaller Cos	128.1149.7	Nat West Financial	114.7151.7
Perpetual Income	128.0150.9	NPI Growth	114.6144.2
Arbuthnot Foreign	128.3158.8	Midland Drayton Hi Yd	114.4127.8
M&G/Financial	128.2152.3	Target Inc & Growth	114.4
Gartmore/Japan	127.9156.4	General	114.4144.9
Henderson/Europe	127.8129.7	Britannia Japan Perf	114.4174.4
G.Winchester Overseas	127.8129.7	Ansbacher Inc Mly	114.3127.4
Arbuthnot Internat	127.8129.7	Abney Capital	114.3148.6
Gartmore/Japan	126.9143.4	Chiefman High Yield	114.2125.1
Barclaybank '500'	126.2139.9	Nelstar Hi Inc	114.2104.9
Target Special Sits	125.8195.3	Gartmore Inc	114.2136.3
TSB Income	125.8155.3	Barclaybank Ex Inc	114.0129.7
Henderson Inc & Gth	125.8155.3	Equity & Law Fund	114.0129.7
Franklington Amer	125.0178.5	L&C Income	114.0134.4
Pelican Unit	124.8157.8	Bridge Amer & Gen	114.0137.2
Fidelity Max Inc Eqty	124.6	S&P/High Yield	113.9172.6
Henderson/Nth America	124.5181.1	Gartmore High Inc	113.8129.2
A-Hambro Osea Earn's	124.2194.0	TSB Income	113.8159.9
Franklington	123.9143.7	TSB Scottish	113.7159.6
Tyndall/Nth Amer'n	123.8152.1	Target/Invest Trst	113.7179.3
M.L.A. Trust	123.5201.9	GT Far East & Gen	113.6114.7
Arbuthnot Worldwde Bnd	123.5121.1	A-Hambro High Yield	113.6114.7
Henderson Extra Inc	123.4132.9	Chiefman High Yield	113.5141.6
Franklington Inc Growth	123.4180.4	Nat West Extra Inc	113.5117.1
Britannia Am Smi Cos	123.2179.4	Bridge Internat Rec	113.5159.4
Franklington US Trn	122.7152.3	Henderson Inc & Ass	113.4141.4
S&P/Select Income	122.6203.0	Chiefman High Yield	113.4162.0
London Wall/Internat	122.3143.5	Leo Capital	113.3167.8
A-Hambro Gr & Inc	122.1163.8	Henderson/Pac Sm Co	113.3189.7
Tyndall/Far Eastern	122.1	A-Hambro Accum	113.2151.0
Franklington Amer	122.1151.2	Kleinwort Benson NY	113.1143.5
M&G/Conv Income	121.3135.6	Int'l Amer Tech	113.1161.1
Barclaybank Recov	121.0140.0	Kleinwort Benson S	113.0129.9
Great Winchester	121.0130.2	Ulster/Growth	112.9136.7
Barclaybank Income	119.9141.6	Rowan Securities	112.8156.7
Henderson Sm Co	119.8134.5	Barclaybank Growth	112.8156.7
Norwich Union Gp Tr	120.8150.0	Chiefman High Yield	112.8156.7
Brown Shipley Inc	120.8154.5	Hill Samuel/Dollar	112.8135.2
New Court Sec of Am	120.7156.9	Family Fund	112.7130.9
A-Hambro Sec of Am	120.7156.9	M&G Sec Gen	112.7151.4
Franklington	120.7156.9	Chiefman High Yield	112.7151.4
Henderson/Ri Inc	120.1136.4	Gartmore/Barrington	112.5100.1
Nat West Income	120.0151.7	Murray European	112.5100.1
Schroder Income	119.9148.6	New Court Inc	112.4126.9
Royal Trust Income	119.9148.6	TSB General	112.3148.4
Abney Income	119.8132.7	Chiefman High Yield	112.3148.4
Schroder General	119.8159.5	G & A Units	112.3147.0
H.K. Small Companies	119.8126.3	Mutual/High Yield	112.3123.4
Chiefman Internat	119.8126.3	Tyndall/Inter Earn	112.3150.4
Fidelity Amer	119.7129.1	Chiefman High Yield	112.2115.2
British Life Dividend	119.7129.1	GT World Bnd Fnd	112.1115.2
Stewart American Fd	119.6165.0	Lloyds Worldwde Cr	112.1162.6
Arbuthnot Giants	119.6165.0	Midland Drayton Amer	112.1139.6
Reliance/Select Income	119.6165.0	Barclaybank General	112.0140.9
Crescent Inter	119.5148.0	S&P/High Yield	111.9109.7
M&G/American	119.5148.0	Quilter/Quadrant Inc	111.9109.7
Hill Samuel/Spec Sits	119.4173.3	Rowan High Yield	111.8133.7
Barclaybank Spec Sits	119.4173.3	New Court Inc	111.8170.8
Capital Income	119.2	Legal & Gen Equity	111.7155.9
Franklington Ex Inc	119.2	Keybank & Law Fund	111.7146.2
M&G/High Income	119.2129.5	Lloyds Extra Income	111.7146.2
A-Hambro Pacific	119.2180.7	T&G/Coleman	111.6152.5
Britannia Assets	119.0136.6	Target/Extra Income	111.6144.2
A-Hambro Rec Sits	119.0119.5	Gartmore/Barrington	111.6147.8
M&G/High Income	119.0119.5	Ridgefield Capital	111.6115.1
Frederick & Sons	118.9138.4	Maybank Income	111.6124.9
Proffitt High Yld	118.9146.2	Craigmont High Inc	111.5119.7
Carlton High Yld	118.8117.6	Brit UK Blue Chip	111.5145.3
Brown Shipley Grth	118.8167.9	Kein Sens Unit Fnd	111.4142.0
S&P/High Yield	118.6125.7	Widder Growth	111.3151.8
Target Financial	118.5155.9	HK Technology	111.3117.4
Barclaybank Trust	118.3148.9	A-Hambro Small Cos	111.2136.5
Quilter/Quadrant Recvry	118.1	Chiefman High Yield	111.2162.8
Reliance Opportunity	118.1	Brown Shipley Index	111.1146.6
London Wall/High Inc	118.0115.6	Guardrail	111.1152.6
Rowan America	117.8155.9	Midland Drayton Inc	111.0134.1
Royal Trust Capital	117.8155.9	Proffitt High Yield	110.9148.8
Fidelity Growth & Inc	117.7154.2	Prudential/Prutrust	110.9148.8
Bishopsgate Prog	117.7144.2	A-Hambro First	110.8144.2
Target Income	117.7125.3	Canlife Income	110.8128.7
Reliance/Select Income	117.6138.4	Worldwide Capital	110.7152.4
Quilter/Quadrant Gen	117.5152.4	NPI Overseas	110.7176.9
A-Hambro 2nd Sm Cos	117.4145.9	Chiefman Internat	110.7182.5
M&G/Recovery	117.4145.9	S&P/High Yield	110.6145.0
Henderson Am SCS	116.9130.7	Equitas Units	110.6140.4
Tyndall Income	116.8127.0	Barclaybank Capital	110.5145.2
Proffitt High Yld	116.7133.8	Chiefman High Yield	110.5127.7
Tyndall/Scottish Inc	116.6126.8	Gartmore/Barrington	110.4145.1
Int'l Pacific	116.6180.7	Target Amer Eagle	110.4145.1
Chiefman Smaller Cos	116.5155.9	Britannia Fin Secs	110.3153.3
Chiefman High Yld	116.4125.7	Barclaybank Prof Ass	110.1154.0
A-Hambro High Inc	116.4144.4	Chiefman High Yield	110.1154.0
Arbuthnot Extra Inc	116.4151.5	Key Income	110.1125.9
T&G/Wickmoor Divi	116.4127.3	Henderson Cap Growth	109.7153.5
M&G/Extra Yld	116.4122.9	Nat West Growth Inc	109.5138.1
Hill Samuel Invest	116.3154.4	Target/Equity	109.4139.4
T&G/Barbican	116.3154.4	Hill Samuel/Capital	109.3143.4
Minster	116.2136.7	Henderson Recovery	109.3120.2
Lloyds Later Tech	116.2136.7	Hill Samuel/Financial	109.2155.6
Henderson Financial	116.2136.7	Scottish Equit Unit	109.2143.7
Schroder Small Cos	116.2136.7	Anderson	109.2136.1
Lloyds Income	116.2136.7	Hill Samuel/British	109.1145.1
Albion	116.2136.7	Chiefman High Yield	109.0138.7
Britannia Capital	116.2136.7	Britannia Smaller Cos	108.9142.2
Britannia Nth Am	116.2136.7	A-Hambro Brit Indus	108.9132.9
Barclaybank Cr Acc	116.2136.7	Barclaybank Cr Acc	108.7124.4
Rowan Merit	116.2136.7	Rowan Merit	108.7164.2

Grieson/Grantchstr	108.5138.5	Mid Mount High Inc	101.8117.7
London Wall/Extra Inc	108.4103.7	Nelstar Domestic	101.7126.9
S&P/Europan Gr	108.4103.6	Nelstar Trust	101.6125.2
Abbey American Gr	108.4136.6	Bridge Capital	101.4147.1
S&P/Select Income	108.2146.3	Nat West Nth Amer	101.4122.0
Lloyds North Amer	108.2	Arbuthnot Nth Amer	101.3127.0
S&P/Select Inter	108.1159.2	S&P/IT	101.1156.2
M&G/Compound Gr	108.0149.1	Buckmaster Cumb	100.9121.5
Hill Samuel/Select Inter	108.0138.9	Arbuthnot Nth Amer	100.9121.5
T&G/Vanguard Hi Yld	108.0120.6	Choulaton Inc	100.8137.7
Schroder Capital	107.9157.6	Britannia Sp Mkt Sits	100.7130.5
Baring Bros Stratton	107.9144.6	Brown Ship Fin	100.6152.2
British Life Balanced	107.9138.0	M&G/Magnum	100.6152.2
Confederation Gr Un	107.9139.9	Gartmore Spec Sits	100.3171.4
A-Hambro Inter	107.9139.1	GT Capital	100.2141.4
Britannia Recovery	107.9143.0	London Wall/Finance	99.8145.5
M&G Smaller Cos	107.7140.3	Craigmont Recovery	99.8123.7
Canlife General	107.7133.7	S&P/Gilt & Fix Idh	99.8
Britannia Far East	107.6162.5	Britannia Inter Gth	99.7141.5
Capel N American	107.6119.9	Britannia Int Tst Shs	99.5153.1
Chiefman I & G	107.5117.2	Tyndall/Preference	99.5104.1
Britannia Amer Sp Sits	107.4148.4	HK Growth	99.3128.1
HK Private	107.3151.6	Chiefman Gilt	99.3140.4
G.T. Income	107.2142.1	M&G/Commod & Gen	99.3140.4
Mutual/Income	107.1122.9	Nat West Mkt & Min	99.0138.1
G.T. U.S. & General	107.1158.6	Britannia Special Sits	98.7102.4
Midland Drayton O'sea	107.1152.5	Britannia Special Sits	98.7102.4
S&P/High Yield	107.1152.5	Arbuthnot Gilt & Fix	98.4113.5
HK Extra Income	107.0122.6	Tyndall/Gilt & Fix	98.1
Vanguard Trustee	107.0133.0	Barclaybank Gilt Inc	98.1
London Wall Cap Grth	106.9127.6	A-Hambro Gvt Secur	97.7108.6
Fidelity Internat	106.9125.9	Craigmont Spec Sits	97.7108.6
Crested American	106.8167.8	S&P/Gilt & Fix Int Inc	97.7
Chiefman High Inc'm	106.7114.1	Chiefman Amer Acc	97.6130.1
Target/Growth	106.7128.7	Britannia Cap Acc	97.5130.4
Nat West Portfolio Inv	106.7128.7	Target/Preference	97.5130.4
New Court Equity	106.6138.0	Arbuthnot	97.5130.4
S&P/UK Equity	106.6148.5	McAulley Delphi Inc	97.3122.2
Mutual/Blue Chip	106		

In brief

Deposit scheme launched

For investors who want the certainty of fixed interest rates for a fixed period, UDT has announced a new "five/fifty" deposit scheme for sums from £5,000 to £50,000. The fixed periods to choose from are six months, one year, two years plus a day. The rate of interest offered will reflect conditions in the money market: current rates being offered are six months - 15%, a year - 14%, two years plus a day - 14%.

Interest will be paid by cheque at maturity for six-month deposits and half-yearly for longer periods. Deposits must be placed by cheque and any amount between £5,000 and £50,000 can be placed in each period. Current investors in UDT's Average Rate Scheme will get a preferential interest rate should they wish to transfer their funds.

Portfolio care

To look after his or her investments, the average expatriate really needs a grasp of international markets, currencies, exchange controls (where they apply) and taxation, as well as the time to manage a portfolio of securities.

London Stockbrokers Capel Cure Myers aims to offer an international and specialist portfolio management service and comprehensive tax advisory service for expatriates, to take the weight off their shoulders. Minimum portfolio which CCM will accept is £5,000 which will be invested in specialist offshore funds. But you can start with an initial investment of only £1,000 provided you are prepared to make further investments of £1,000 until the £5,000 minimum is reached.

Unit-linked plan

Covermaster is a unit-linked whole life plan providing lump sum benefits on death, launched by Abbey Life. It offers flexibility to vary cover as circumstances change and can be adapted to individual needs at any time after the first two years. It can be increased every five years in line with inflation and guarantees insurability for policy holders. Premiums can start low and escalate by 10% each year for the first five years of the plan or they can be kept the same throughout. This plan also offers a bonus for higher contributions.



Christies auction to start wine season

The new season of wine auctions gets under way on Tuesday with a sale of inexpensive wines at Christie's, South Kensington. This is rapidly followed by Sotheby's fine wine sale on January 20, with Bonhams coming later in the month on the 27th with a sale of classified growth claret, fine burgundy, cognac and vintage port. On the 28th Christie's have a sale of Bordeaux wines at their King Street auction rooms.

Looking back over 1981, wine in the saleroom generally saw rising prices and increased turnover, but there are signs of some weakness ahead for 1982.

All three London wine auctioneers with specialist departments had increased sales.

Vintage claret has risen most during last year. Although the price of young Bordeaux may ease, the general claret market remains firm. This is particularly so for such vintages as 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983.

Duncan McEuen of Christie's considers 1978 claret "quite a winner" 1976 "hesitant" 1975 "overshadowed" and 1974 and 1977 "weak". He says there is fair demand for 1969 and 1973 (about £55 a case for a 2nd growth), 1971, he says, is enjoying "an Indian summer" with St Emilion and Pomerol particularly popular, 1970 was

holding up well, 1967 firm, and 1966 moving from strength to strength as the natural successor to the 1961.

The much publicised 1961 vintage continues to appreciate with Sotheby's securing a new record for Ch Lafite on December 9 with 1990 per dozen bottles (which cost about £33 in 1963).

Vintage Port is "healthily stable, not static", according to Master of Wine, Michael Broadbent (of Christie's). He points to a year like 1955 which cost under £1 per bottle in 1960. Five years later the same vintage was £1.50, retail; it now costs around £190 per case at auction.

Of Port vintages, the prospects are mixed. David Molyneux-Berry, MW, of Sotheby's compares the 1977 to 1963; its quality makes it appealing for long term appreciation. He says 1975 is poor at auction, realising as low as £40 per case for Warre in October. The 1970s are falling in price - reflecting, in part, the large quantity declared - and will continue to drop, according to Robert Churchward of Bonhams.

The 1960s are picking up slowly from about £75-£85 in 1974 to £115 plus. The 1960 vintage is static, overshadowed by 1966.

The price of Burgundy has fallen and will continue to, despite the jump of 34.3 per cent on average in the

mid-November Hospices de Beaune auction. "There is little saleroom demand for Burgundy because the quality of wines does not match the price. Even Domaine de la Romanee-Conti, with the exception of 1971, is falling in price."

Vintage cognac is a very firm market and Madeira generally undervalued. Good quality Solera Madeira is only £7-£8 per bottle at auction and yet has an average age of 30-40 years. This shows a 50 per cent fall on three years ago, according to Molyneux-Berry. He recommends buying vintage Madeira in the saleroom. A 1920 malmsiey would realise about £18 under the hammer but £25-£26 per bottle from a merchant.

Fine West German wines remain undervalued. Christie's held a special sale on October 22 with some outstanding bottles and prices for single estates.

Champagne, which is not a large sale market, enjoyed a fair year. Some from 1964 showed small rises, like Dom Perignon up from £180-£250 to £300 in October, 1966 like Bollinger Tradition up from £110-£130 to £150-£155 and 1969 for the same wine up by more than £100 to £190 per case. Attention looks likely for 1971, 1973 and 1975 vintages.

Conal Gregory

Firm end to week

Late confirmation that the Monopolies Commission had rejected bids from both the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and Standard Chartered Bank for Royal Bank of Scotland proved the main feature in a day which saw selective gains in spite of threats of an increase in the rate of the discount and uncertainty over the miners' ballot.

Royal Bank of Scotland sustained further losses after a disastrous week, slipping a further 16p to 125p, but both the defeated bidders improved, with Hongkong and Shanghai up 4p to 139p and Standard Chartered rising 8p to 68p.

The FT index closed up 4.4 at 531.6 after opening unchanged at 10 am.

Electricals were steadier after a week which has seen disappointing figures from Rascal and Thorn EMI. The sector has at last lost the glamourous rating of the last two years according to one dealer. Rascal was only 2p lower at 38p after touching 38p in early trading as a line of 300,000 went through the market, while Cable & Wireless improved 6p to 22p, a new high, and GEC closed up at 80p.

Gilts ended with gains of 1/4 across the board in thin trading, with 2 1/2% at 115p, a cautious mood ahead of the miners' ballot and the US money supply figures.

Leading industrialists showed a general improvement, with ICI rising 8p to 316p, partly from the strength of recent favourable comment by brokers James Capel, BAT Industries at 358p, Glaxo at 450p and Reed at 245p shared similar gains, while other leaders improved 2p to 5p.

Stock Markets

Firm end to week

In the aftermath of the Lord Grade affair and the rival bids from Mr Holmes a Court's Bell Group and Mr Gerald Ronson's Heron Group, Associated Communications Corporation was restored to listings and rose to 65p against the pre-announcement level of 53p to end the day at 57p as the Heron counter bid was awaited.

Other FT issues improved in sympathy, with figures due next week, rising 4p to 115p.

Losses of £1.8m knocked 15p from Henry Wigfall, which ended at 121p, after 115p, but an increased final dividend offset yesterday's lower price to 121p. Royal Mail General Trust 22p to 38p. Associated Newspapers also improved after disappointing figures, rising 5p to 178p.

Continuing merger talk boosted food shares with favourites British Sugar up 5p to 386p, Ranks Hovis McDougall at 67p up 4p, amid rumours that Ralston Purina is preparing to make a bid and Unigate rising 1p to 15p. But B & W Bersford unchanged at 230p after its continuing rejection of the terms being offered by RTZ.

Equity turnover on January 14 was £95.59m (10,754 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were: Royal Bank of Scotland, Rascal, Daily Mail Trust, Cable & Wireless, BAT Industries, Associated Comm 'A', Hongkong & Shanghai, Standard Chartered, De Beers and Glaxo.

Traditional options: Saw calls in Control Securities at 6p, Royal Bank of Scotland at 18p, FNFC at 3p, and P & O at 13p.

Press comment supported

Johnson & Firth sells five small offshoots

Johnson & Firth Brown, the Sheffield-based steel and engineering group has sold five of its smaller companies to JFB International, a subsidiary of its 50 per cent owned US associate, JFB Holdings.

The five companies are Gordian Strapping, Endeavour, Everbright Fasteners, Hunter Wire Products and Greenings, a South African company.

Johnson's will receive cash of £4m and a further £2.25m of convertible preference capital.

Mr John Clay, chairman, said the sales had been made to improve liquidity.

Cawdaw trims loss

On arise in sales from £3.6m to £4.5m, Cawdaw Industrial Holdings has trimmed its pre-tax loss from £549,000 to £415,000 for the half year to September 30.

The recession affected all divisions and many painful decisions have been taken. The stringent measures introduced have led to the reduction in trading loss and interest charges.

Diamond Stylus

Difficult trading conditions reported in the Diamond Stylus annual report in August continued for the half year to September 30. Turnover was £810,000 (against £865,000) and net losses rose from £50,000 to £119,000.

Elgin Diamond Products (Europe) suffered from the severely depressed engineering industry in the UK, but the board does see signs of a slight improvement and it hopes that this will continue.

Wigfall loss sparks bid rumours

Shares in Henry Wigfall, the electrical and TV repair group, plunged 19p yesterday to 121p on news of a £1.8m loss and decision to pass the dividend for the half year to October. This set off a new round of speculation that a takeover bid could be in the offing.

In 1978 Corner Radio Service just failed in its £4m bid for the company. The loss was a turnaround on a profit of £63,000 last year. Interest payments were down from £1.48m to £1.18m and the depreciation charge rose from £5m to £5.4m. No tax was paid in the period.

Mr Gordon Hazard, the recently appointed non-executive chairman, said the loss had been partly caused through financing - credit sales outside the group.

In 1980 the company sold its hire purchase arm to Trinity Finance to relieve the level of borrowings at that time. Problems in external finance forced the group to link up with the Lloyds and Scottish finance group late last year, but according to Mr Hazard, the expected increase in profitability from this has still to materialize.

Sales fell by £900,000 in the half year from £22.3m to £21.6m. The company's retailing problems are being tackled with the possible appointment of a marketing director to the board in the near future.

An account the board cost-cutting exercise to improve efficiency but without any redundancies is planned, Mr Hazard said.

"There are many pressures bearing upon the company and which are rent and rates and it will take sometime to stabilize the business and then return it to an acceptable level of profitability", he said.

The boom in video recorders had made a contribution, but the company faced the problem of shortage of supply, he said. The board was confident improvements could be made in reasonable time and they hoped to report some progress by the year end, he said.

RETAIL PRICES

Index numbers January 15 1974=100 for all items, excluding seasonal items, by the Department of Employment yesterday.

	All items	Food	Non-food
Oct	271.9	274.1	269.4
Nov	272.1	274.1	269.4
Dec	272.6	274.6	269.9
Jan 1981	273.3	275.3	270.6
Feb	273.8	275.8	271.1
Mar	274.4	276.4	271.7
Apr	275.0	277.0	272.3
May	275.6	277.6	272.9
June	276.2	278.2	273.5
July	276.8	278.8	274.1
Aug	277.4	279.4	274.7
Sept	278.0	280.0	275.3
Oct	278.6	280.6	275.9
Nov	279.2	281.2	276.5
Dec	279.8	281.8	277.1

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	14 1/2%
Barclays	14 1/2%
BCCI	14 1/2%
Consolidated Crds	14 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co	14 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	14 1/2%
Midland Bank	14 1/2%
Nat Westminster	14 1/2%
TSB	14 1/2%
Williams & Glyn's	14 1/2%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 15% over £50,000 15 1/2%

Benefit cuts begin to bite

The new year is upon us and brings with it the gloomy news of lower benefits for people who fall sick or become unemployed. This is because of the ending of the earnings related supplement (ERS) paid with the basic benefit.

Earnings related supplement, as its name implies, was linked to recent earnings. The higher the earnings, the more supplement paid. The maximum was £14 a week, and it was meant to act as a financial cushion in times of sickness or unemployment. The supplement lasted for up to six months before it was paid on top of the appropriate benefit. But from now on the

supplement is completely abolished. Anyone who falls sick or loses a job will not be able to claim it.

There are, however, several exceptions. First, those who claimed the supplement before the cut-off date will be able to keep it even after January until their entitlement expires. Secondly, if anyone falls sick or becomes unemployed after Monday (the effective date of the supplement's ending) and this is within eight weeks of earlier sickness or unemployment for which the supplement was paid, then they are eligible for it again.

However, the Government has ruled that ERS will be paid to anyone after June 30, 1982.

The phasing out of the supplement began in January, 1981. Then, had the rules not been changed, the top rate would have gone up to something around £19 a week, with a further rise in prospect from this month.

The 1981 maximum payment dropped compared with the 1980 level, and the payments to those few who do receive it in 1982 will be kept at this year's rate.

The benefits with which ERS can be paid are sickness benefit, unemployment benefit, maternity allowance and industrial injury benefit. New widows also receive it, but from the new year only newly-widowed women whose husbands died before January 3, 1982, will qualify.

Ian McDonald

Your money market best buys

Banks

Current accounts - no interest. Deposit accounts - Midland 12% per cent, Lloyds, NatWest and Barclays 12% per cent, seven days notice required for withdrawals. For sums of £10,000, fixed-term deposits - 1, 3 and 6 months, 14% per cent rates quoted by Barclays. Other banks may differ.

Money funds

Simco 7-day fund, 14.62 per cent; UDT Average Rate Deposit Fund, 15% per cent; Tyndall 7-day fund, 14.5 per cent; Simco dollar fund, 12 per cent; interest paid without deduction of tax. Further details from Simco (01-236 0233), Tyndall (0272-732241), UDT (scheme now closed to new investment).

National Savings Bank

Ordinary accounts interest 5 per cent, first £70 of interest free. Investment Account - 15 per cent, interest paid without deduction of tax, one month's notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £200,000. National Savings index-linked certificates

Maximum investment £5,000, return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail prices index, 4 per cent bonus if held full five years to maturity. Cash value of £100 certificates purchased in February 1977, £187.81 including 4 per cent bonus.

Return totally free of all taxes, equivalent to an annual interest rate over the five year term of 10.5 per cent, maximum investment £5,000.

Building societies

Ordinary share accounts - 9.75 per cent. Term shares - 1 to 5 years, between 0.5 per cent and 2 per cent over the BSA recommended ordinary share rate depending on the term. Regular savings schemes - 1.25 per cent over BSA recommended ordinary share rate. Rates quoted above are those most commonly offered. Individual building societies may quote different

rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate tax, not reclaimable by non-taxpayers. Local authority yearling bonds

12-month fixed rate investments, interest 15% per basic rate, deducted at source (can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers), minimum investment £1,000, purchased through stockbroker or bank.

Local authority town hall bonds

Fixed term, fixed rate investments, interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers). Best offers: 1 year, Kingston-upon-Hull 13% per cent; 2-3 years, Swansea, 14% per cent; 4 years, Knowsley 14% per cent, 5-10 West Berlin 15 per cent.

Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public Finance Loans Bureau (01-628 7855, after 3 pm). See also on Prestel no 24808.

Finance for Industry

Fixed-term, fixed-rate investments of between 3 and 10 years, interest paid half-yearly without deduction of tax 3-4 years, 13% per cent; 5-6 years, 13% per cent; 7-9 years, 13% per cent; 10-14 years, 14% per cent. Further information from FTI 91 Waterloo Road, London SE1 (01-928 7822).

London house deposits (UDT)

Fixed-term, fixed-rate deposits, interest paid without deduction of tax. For sums of £10,000 or more: 1 month, 14% per cent; 3 months, 14% per cent; 12 months, 15 per cent. Foreign currency deposits* Interest paid without deduction of tax.

	Call	7-days notice
US dollar	10 1/4 p.c.	10 1/4 p.c.
Yen	2 1/2 p.c.	2 1/2 p.c.
French Franc	11 p.c.	11 p.c.
Swiss Franc	4 p.c.	4 p.c.

* Rates quoted by Midland Bank - other banks may differ.

Raybeck holds dividend as profits tumble

By Peter Wainwright

Raybeck, the fashion group which bought Bourns & Hollingsworth in 1979 and which trades under the Lord Lord and John and John and John labels, is making gross despite a fall in earnings a share from 1.13p to 0.15p is not necessarily encouraging. Mr Ben Raven, the chairman, reports tough trading in the first half of the financial year but, industry figures are immature in the latest figure, as they were in the comparable ones. In the year to April 25, 1981, the pretax surplus slumped from £5.58m to £1.52m but

Wall St

New York, Jan 14 - Stocks closed narrowly higher for the first time this week due to a combination of technical factors and some positive projections for the economy.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 3.33 points at 842.28. Advances edged past declines by around 720 to 670 and volume slipped to some 43 million shares from 49.13 million yesterday.

Analysts said the market was overdue for a technical rise after the first three sessions of the week.

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Name: [] Address: []

quently be no significant reduction in competition in United Kingdom banking if either of the bidders were to merge with Royal Bank Group. We considered whether there might nevertheless be a significant loss against the HSBC bid, this means that I would not oppose the bid from Standard Chartered."

Mr Smethurst: "My colleagues have identified two detriments to the public

"In addition, the deterioration in the quality and importance of decisions made in Scotland by the most

"We also think there is value in preserving such independent local centres of business initiative and opinion as survive in the United Kingdom. Scotland and Scottish banking have an honour-

difficulty in maintaining a full assessment of all aspects of the group's strength in the way that it believed necessary in relation to a United Kingdom clearing bank.

It was urged by HSBC on the other hand that with modern communications the Bank could enjoy the fullest dialogue at all times with

"Some of the arguments have not seemed to us wholly persuasive.

"However, it became clear in any case that the Bank would oppose on other

grounds the transfer abroad of ultimate control over a United Kingdom clearing bank even where it was satisfied that no significant problem arose over supervision.

I agree that no such issue occurs in the case of the proposed merger with Standard Chartered Bank Ltd,

Inside the narrow group of London and Scottish clearing banks is an added attraction, offering the possibility of a distinctive contribution.

domestic banking would derive from the fact that the group—or more exactly its component banking compa-

United Kingdom clearing bank even where it was satisfied that no significant problem arose over supervision.

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 11. Dealings End Jan 22. \$ Contango Day, Jan 25. Settlement Day, Feb 1
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

Age Group	U.S. should take action (%)	U.S. should not take action (%)
18-29	85	15
30-49	75	25
50-69	80	20
70+	88	12

[illegible]

The scene is set for tonight's cup draw in Madrid

When all the world's a stage

From Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent
Madrid, Jan 15

A highly polished wooden stage set in the heart of the exhibition and Congress Palace here will hold the attention of the world tomorrow evening at 7.0 (6.0 British time). In the magnificent auditorium known simply as A, a select audience of 1,600, surrounded by cameras, television lights, green foliage and armed guards, will witness the draw for the World Cup.

Although Joao Havelange, president of FIFA, released a list that included the names of six nations, one school of thought, embracing purists and romantics, believes that the draw will be more than a mere rattle around the three wired cages and drop out of the top one, unseating the destiny of the other 18 finalists.

A second school dismisses that notion, pushing it on to the shelf of fantasy. It prefers to follow the belief that the draw will be not so much fixed as arranged in order to avoid political embarrassment and to please the interests. It must be said that a second opinion is the more ideal solution and is supported by most of the teaming of speculation.

Dick Wragg, head of the international committee, agrees with the other English Football Association officials—Bart McClure, the president, and Ted Croker, the secretary—that no matter how much negotiation and wishful thinking takes place, the draw cannot be anything other than scrupulously fair and arbitrary. The air, though, is thick with inspired guesses.

World Cup seedings

Group 1: Spain, Argentina, West Germany, Brazil, Italy.
Group 2: USSR, Poland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Austria.
Group 3: Belgium, France, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Chile, Peru.
Group 4: El Salvador, Honduras, Cameroon, Algeria, Kuwait, New Zealand.

It would be too much of a coincidence if the names still out tomorrow in the same order but the projections, however wild they may be, make sense. The overall picture when the organizing committee were faced with the potentially awkward question of how to place the top seeds, a simple answer fell readily into their lap. Apart from the two European sides, who were through automatically, there were four other former winners among the qualifiers.

The bottom six, all inexperienced, fitted into equally neat categories. Among them, only El Salvador had appeared at this stage before and they lost all three games in their group during the Mexico tournament in 1970, conceding nine goals and scoring one in the process. The other five are making their debut among the elite.

The top seeds of Eastern Europe in contention, it was decided to invite Austria to join them as second seeds.

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Presiding over it all: Havelange, president of FIFA.

But the reconstruction of the stands will not be finished until March.

Not for the speculative details. To reduce the chances of crowd trouble, it has been suggested that England could be drawn with Poland, who won all four of their qualifying ties, and Chile, both of whom will have few supporters in attendance. If so, England could seek revenge against Poland, who destroyed their World Cup hopes by drawing at Wembley in October 1970.

Scotland, expected to be in the group headed by Italy and have already looked at Corunna, the city that would become home for a fortnight. Either Yugoslavia or Czechoslovakia have been put forward as the representative from the second section. The Scots would then

start against the outsiders in the group on the afternoon of June 15.

Northern Ireland may well emerge in the quarter that is led by the hosts. Nothing would please them more for it is felt that, of all the possibilities facing the third seeds, Spain's group will be the most comfortable.

The Irish, too, would begin against the unknown quantity, but on the evening of June 16. The suggestions are perhaps too good for reality and the arguments, no doubt, will continue until the lights dim in the auditorium tomorrow evening. But the fact that 24 nations will know the task that lies ahead of them this summer. Only then will they be able to make their own firm arrangements.

The opponents: who they are: how they rate

Twenty-one countries will be joining England, Scotland and Northern Ireland in Spain for the World Cup finals, and here we look at the prospects of each one.

Algeria: Intriguing combination of a Russian coach and an energetic national team. A handful of players from French League clubs, Algeria have reached their first finals. Victory over Nigeria in the African play-offs confirmed their potential. Bigger attacking style should provide crowds and excitement.

Argentina: Cesar Menotti, the manager, expects to field many of the players who won in 1978. Including Tottenham's Ardiles, Taranelli, the former Birmingham City defender, and goalkeeper Filad. Add the world's greatest player, Maradona, and Argentina must start among the favourites. Conditions and atmosphere should help them build on McMenotti's shrewd planning.

Austria: Personally clashes between Karl Stolz, the manager, Austrian FA officials and Krenn, the striker, must be smoothed out if the team is to do itself justice. Krenn, a devastating finisher, backed by rugged defenders like Pezney. If "mercenaries" from Spanish and German clubs settle in quickly, Austria could cause problems.

Belgium: Surprise finalists in the last European championships, manager Guy Thys's real-balanced side topped Group 2 in 1980. Moer, a 36-year-old in midfield, continue to pull the strings as he did against England in Italy two years ago. Van den Bergh, a Lierse striker, was top scorer in Europe last season and Brughe's Coulemans is a perfect front-line partner.

Brazil: They continue to provide the team any would-be champions must beat, despite a greater emphasis on teamwork than the individual flair of Pelé. Rivelino-Garrinha era. Liverpool will not need reminding of Zico's part in Flamengo's recent World

Cup Championship final victory over Tottenham. Santana could use defenders' concentration on Zico to release an unknown match-winner.

Cameroon: One of Africa's leading nations for some years. A Yugoslav manager has broken down club rivalries to build a team strengthened by a French League club, as striker Roger Milla of Bastia. Game is based on short-passing midfield and quick, accurate goals.

Chile: Could prove under-rated qualifiers if the form which made them winners of their South American play-offs continues. One team with a reputation for understanding. Casely is a striker to watch and Yanez, a winger, could be the surprise.

Czechoslovakia: Pipped Wales on goal difference to reach finals, and their past World Cup record suggests they will be a force to be reckoned with. Josef Neplous, the manager, must be smoothed out if the team is to do itself justice. Krenn, a devastating finisher, backed by rugged defenders like Pezney. If "mercenaries" from Spanish and German clubs settle in quickly, Austria could cause problems.

France: Yet to make a real impact on world football, but reaching the World Cup finals seven times, France now look to manager Michel Hidalgo's experience and the quality of the team, remains a genuine world-class player and goalscorer Rocheteau and Lacoume will be closely watched. The team's St Etienne goalkeeper, and French are vital parts of an experienced defence.

Honduras: Qualified for first time after battling through 13 games from complicated CONCACAF section. Manager Chelazo Herrera has had his side together for two years and several changes in the 1979 World Youth Cup in Japan, notably Bailey, a striker. Honduras have only ever played El Salvador, of the 23 other qualifiers.

Hungary: When in the mood, they can produce displays which would leave most opponents struggling. Ron Greenwood, the England manager, watched most of the Hungary games in 1978 and believes Hungary were short of their best in both mechanics with England. In Nylstad, the captain and Todorov, the winger, have two players capable of winning a match on their own. But temperament is the problem. Italy: Still recovering from the 1978 World Cup, but the team has been hit by an injury to Antonio Rossi, their forward, does not help. Rossi, however, is a powerful attacking team. Built around the flair of Chivarello, Shengeli and Kiplan, the captain and Todorov, the winger, have two players capable of winning a match on their own. But temperament is the problem.

Kuwait: If money could buy talent, Kuwait would be more than a team of "amateurs". On his day, Nehoda, now 29, can still score classic goals, and Masry remains a rugged defender and accuracy. El Salvador: Jorge Gonzalez carries a heavy burden after scoring twice in vital ties and being dubbed the "goal machine". One team member was killed by gunfire last on way to a training session, but no political problems are anticipated over their draw in finals.

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Peru: The attacking style which has helped Peru to reach the 1978 World Cup finals helped a little-changed team beat Uruguay and Colombia to reach the finals. Peru may find that age has eroded their skills: much will depend on the form and rehabilitation of half

Poland: Qualified for first time after battling through 13 games from complicated CONCACAF section. Manager Chelazo Herrera has had his side together for two years and several changes in the 1979 World Youth Cup in Japan, notably Bailey, a striker. Honduras have only ever played El Salvador, of the 23 other qualifiers.

Russia: Making their first appearance in the finals since 1970, the Russians have a reputation for a powerful attacking team. Built around the flair of Chivarello, Shengeli and Kiplan, the captain and Todorov, the winger, have two players capable of winning a match on their own. But temperament is the problem.

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West Germany: Qualified for first time after battling through 13 games from complicated CONCACAF section. Manager Chelazo Herrera has had his side together for two years and several changes in the 1979 World Youth Cup in Japan, notably Bailey, a striker. Honduras have only ever played El Salvador, of the 23 other qualifiers.

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Crowded fixtures programme criticized

By Nicholas Harling

As the pool players prepared to sit for a record sixth successive week, and football's two main bodies insisted on getting the programmes completed on schedule because of the World Cup, Ron Noades, the Crystal Palace chairman and managing director, said he had a healthy criticism of their lack of flexibility.

His own club have their game at Cambridge postponed and it is hard to see how they must rearrange. And other clubs losing money, would prefer not to be placed in a position of having to cancel a fixture into a pit of a season.

"One thing struggling clubs cannot afford to do is play three games a week until the end of the season just to release 22 players for Spain," Noades said. "Supporters cannot afford to watch three games a week."

"Those clubs that have played in the World Cup should rearrange their games for as early as possible."

That may not be as ludicrous as it sounds because players from West Germany before they staged the 1974 World Cup had their last league game on the day of the World Cup. Bad weather had prevented the game from being played.

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Rugby Union

A green oasis in a bleak landscape waits for the old enemies

By Peter West

England and Scotland share all the excitement at Murrayfield this afternoon as they launch another championship series on a green oasis in a bleak and wintry landscape. We have seen some spectacular Calcutta Cup matches in recent seasons and it is to be expected that the game of rugby—whatever the result—will be the winner.

No such thought, however, will be engaging the minds of the players as they take the field. Scotland, who have won their last four international matches at Murrayfield, are playing against a team that has won all three of its last four matches.

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I go along with the belief of the captain, Bill Beaumont, and of "Budge" Rogers, the England man of selection, that England will win if they play to their full potential. They certainly ought to do so if they can reproduce the resilience and control displayed against Australia in the second half of a fortnight ago. It remains to be seen whether the new-found posse and patience are proof against an early onslaught, spearheaded no doubt by the fire and pace of the Scottish loose forwards.

From an England standpoint it was encouraging last month to see Australia's forwards putting their Scottish opponents under pressure at the scrummages. This was an area in Scotland's play which must have given comfort to Jim Telfer and it is something he has worked on assiduously since. But it is prudent to suppose that the better of England's five matches in the tight, England ought to gain a distinct edge at the lineout.

Beaumont and Maurice Colclough, whose performance against Australia the Scots have the most healthy respect, will be disappointed if they do not get the better of Bill Cuthbertson and Alan Thomas. At the tail there might be little between Bob Herd, whose well-being was confirmed yesterday, and Ian MacLennan, who has been further confirmed in the commanding presence of Mick Jeavons at number five in the line.

What happens around the scrum is a matter of detail. Each team has a short of match practice, which suggests that it follows are bursting to wards the climax, we could see a scrum which is a scrum. It is worth training and preparation have been interrupted less, England at least has the advantage of a home base.

Certainly, eleven of the side in blue will not be waiting for action. Irvine (playing in his tenth Calcutta Cup game), Jim Ross (in his eighth), and Telfer (in his sixth) are the only Scots who know what it feels like to beat the old enemy.

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Television and radio: Saturday and Sunday

Edited by Peter Daville

BBC 1

9.05 *Swim*: second in the series, it's called *Novices* (7); 9.30 *Swap Shop*: Singing star Barry Manilow takes part in a 'Viewers' phone-in. Other guests: Barry Toot, magician John Salisse; and athletes Alan Wells and Lindsey MacDonald; 12.15 *Grandstand*: The line-up is 12.20 *World Cup Focus*; 12.55 *World Cup Skirmish* from Kitzbühel in Austria. We see the ladies' downhill; 1.05 *Skirmish*: We see the men's downhill; 1.50 *International Rugby Union*. Scotland versus England, at Murrayfield; 3.30 *Tennis*: McEnroe versus Connors in the Volvo Grand Prix masters, from New York; 3.50 *Half-time*; 3.55 *Tennis* (continued). Coverage continues until 4.30.

BBC 2

10.10 *Open University*: Today's subjects are: 10.10 *Health Choices* (home cooking); 10.35 *Consumer Decisions* (putting your foot down); 11.00 *S101 Preparatory Mathematics* (algebra). *Open University* programmes end at 11.15, after which there is a close-down until the Saturday Cinema presentation; 2.50 *Film: Odette* (1950) *Odette*, who worked with the French Resistance and was captured by the Germans and tortured by them. Anna Neagle plays Odette. Co-starring Trevor Howard.

ITV/LONDON

9.35 *Seaside Street*: with The Muppets; 9.35 *Thunderbirds*: a race against the sun. Puppet adventure (7); 10.00 *World of Sport*: The line-up, amended because of racing's cancellation, is: 12.20 *On the Ball* (report on the World Cup draw preparations); 12.45 *World Cup Skirmish* (from Kitzbühel, Austria); 1.00 *Swimming* (Gainesville International, from Florida); 1.15 *News*; 1.20 *The TV Four*. *Greyhound* racing from Harringey (2.08, 2.23, 2.38 and 2.52); 3.00 *American football* (the AFC/NFC Finals); 3.45 *Half-time football* news and reports.

RADIO 4

6.25 *Shipping forecast*.
6.30 *News*.
6.32 *Farming forecast*.
6.50 *Young People's Religious Affairs*.
7.00 *News*.
7.10 *Today's Papers*.
7.15 *On Your Farm*.
7.45 *Young People's Religious Affairs*.
8.00 *News*.
8.10 *Today's Papers*.
8.15 *On Your Farm*.
8.50 *Breakfast in Plymouth*.
9.50 *News*.
10.05 *Talking Politics*.
10.30 *Daily Service*.
10.45 *Pick of the Week*.
11.00 *From our own Correspondent*.
12.00 *News*.
12.20 *Money Box*.
12.27 *The News Quiz*.
1.10 *Any Questions*.
2.00 *News*.
2.15 *Thirty-Minute Theatre*.
2.30 *News*.
2.35 *Medicine Now*.
3.15 *Wildlife*.
3.30 *The British Seafarer*. A history in 35 parts (1) introduction. The Deep Sea.
4.15 *A Place to Dream*. Hugh Johnson talks about his 5-year-old garden, which he is making around his 17th-century Essex manor house.
4.30 *News*.
4.35 *Take Sugar*. A magazine of interest to disabled persons.
5.00 *Novels Up To Now*. Novels since the war (3). *Oracles and Fables*.
6.15 *News*.
6.15 *Desert Island Discs*.
6.50 *The Week with Robert Robinson*.
7.35 *Baker's Dozen*.
8.30 *Saturday-Night Theatre*: "High Fidelity" by Ken Kesey.
10.00 *News*.

Radio 3

7.55 *Weather*.
8.00 *News*.
8.05 *Audubon*: *Reawakening*. Borodin, William Hurlston; records.
9.00 *News*.

Radio 2

5.00 *Peter Marshall* with the *Sunday Early Show*; 8.00 *David Jacobs* with *Star Search*; 10.30 *Star Search* (new series) *Arnie Murray* plays her favourite music; 11.00 *The Kenny Everett Show*; 1.10 *My Wife and I*.
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